

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to inform you about new changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility from September 2026 and to strongly encourage families who may be eligible for support to apply.

Those families who are eligible and who completed an application will not only help provide their child with a nutritious lunchtime meal each school day but also support the school in accessing additional funding that can be used to develop the learning and wellbeing of all our students.

From September 2026, the Government has extended eligibility for Free School Meals, meaning all children in households receiving any level of Universal Credit will qualify for a free school meal. This means that more families may now qualify for support, even if they had not previously been eligible. At the same time, transitional protection will end.

If your child is already receiving Free School Meals and this was registered through Blackpool Council there is nothing you need to do. Blackpool Council are reviewing all families who currently receive free school meals to see if they remain eligible under the new rules.

What this means for you:

- If your household income is low and you are in receipt of Universal Credit, your child may now be eligible to receive free school meals.
- Anyone currently receiving free school meals will continue to do so until September 2026.
- If you receive Universal Credit, but do not receive free school meals for your child, we strongly recommend you to make an application as soon as possible to ensure provision is in place for September 2026.

How to apply:

Applications can be made online for students at Blackpool Aspire Academy using the following link:
<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/fcat>

We would encourage all families to check their eligibility, as these extra resources make a huge difference for your child and help us support the entire school community.

Kind regards

Mr Blackwell
Deputy Headteacher