



Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Changes to Free School Meals Guidance from September 2026**

We are writing to inform you of changes to the Free School Meals guidance that will take effect from September 2026.

#### **Free School Meals expansion:**

From September 2026, there will be 2 categories of benefits-based free school meals –

- **Eligible targeted:** this covers children in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less.  
**The children eligible under the ‘Targeted’ category will benefit from Wiltshire Council’s FUEL (Food, Unity, Energy, Laughter) provision.**

Children **may** also be eligible for Targeted Free School Meal’s if their household is in receipt of one of the benefits below:

- Income Support
  - Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance
  - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
  - Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999\*
  - The guarantee element of Pension Credit
  - Child Tax Credit (provided you’re not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
  - Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
  - No Recourse to Public Funds
- **Eligible expanded:** this covers children in households receiving Universal Credit with annual household earnings exceeding £7,400.  
**The children eligible under the “Expanded” category will not benefit from Wiltshire Council’s FUEL (Food, Unity, Energy, Laughter) provision.**

#### **Transitional protection has ended:**

If your child has previously been in receipt of benefits-based Free School Meals, you will need to re-apply before September 2026. Your child **will not** automatically continue to receive Free School Meals from September 2026; we must process a new eligibility check.

\*Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999\* - If you are a family with NRPF and would like to apply for Free School Meals please use attached NRPF paper application

### **Universal Infant Free School Meals:**

- Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will automatically receive a universal free school meal regardless of family income.
- However, families with children in these year groups should still apply for benefits-based free school meals if they meet the criteria listed above. If eligible for 'targeted' free school meals, additional funding is available to the school.

### **What you need to do:**

Please can we ask all parents to complete the following Microsoft form:

[Larkhill - Free School Meals Registration for September 2026 – Fill in form](#)

You will need to submit one form for each child attending Larkhill Primary School.

This information will be shared with the Local Authority.

By completing the form, will you give consent to The White Horse Federation checking your benefit status with the Local Authority and DfE for Free School Meals and Pupil Premium funding on an annual basis.

As soon as your check has been verified by the Local Authority, your school admin team will contact you with the agreed outcome. You will be notified in Term 1 of your child starting school.

If you experience any issues, please contact your school admin team.

Yours Sincerely,

The White Horse Federation | Central Services