

10 February 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian

Changes to Free School Meals and Ever6 FSM

I am writing to inform you of important changes regarding Free School Meals (FSM) and the Ever6 scheme that may affect the entitlement you are able to receive in the near future.

As you may be aware, since 1 April 2018, all existing and new claimants of FSM have received free meals for a total of six years or until the end of their current school phase, whether that be primary or secondary. This provision is referred to as Ever6 FSM. It is also worth noting that all pupils receiving FSM are entitled to additional Pupil Premium funding, which funds our school with vital resources to aid educational achievement.

However, we would like to make you aware that the Ever6 FSM scheme will come to an end on 31 March 2025. After this date, the following changes will take effect:

1. Existing claimants who no longer meet the eligibility criteria for FSM will continue to receive the Ever6 FSM support until they complete their current school phase.
2. New claimants from 1 April 2025 will only be able to access FSM if they meet the eligibility criteria at the time of application, and then only for as long as they continue to be eligible.
3. Pupil Premium funding will align with these eligibility rules.

Who Needs To Take Action?

In light of these changes, we strongly encourage that all eligible parents/guardians, who are not already claimants, ensure their child/ren are registered for FSM before the deadline of 31 March 2025 in order to meet the existing criteria. Failing to apply before this date will result in a loss of the protected benefit for your child/ren.

For further information on how to apply, including eligibility criteria, please visit the Lancashire County Council website: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/>

Should you have any questions or need assistance with the application process, please contact Lancashire County Council directly, via email at fsm.south@lancashire.gov.uk.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Yours faithfully



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