

Free School Meals – Who is Entitled?

Important Information for Families.

Firstly, if your child is already receiving Free School Meals and is in Years 3–11, there is nothing you need to do. The Local Authority already holds your information and will automatically check your child's eligibility ahead of their return to school in September 2026.

If your child is in Key Stage 1 (Reception to Year 2), they will already have been receiving a free school meal through the universal infant scheme. If you have previously completed a Free School Meal application, so that your child's school can access additional funding, your eligibility will also be automatically checked—so again, you do not need to take any action.

If your child has not been receiving a free school meal and you believe your they may be eligible please read the information below.

From September 2026, the Government is extending eligibility for Free School Meals. This means that more families may now qualify for support, even if they have not previously been eligible.

What this means for you

- If your household income is lower, your child may now be entitled to free school meals at school
- Schools receive additional funding (known as Pupil Premium) for every eligible child, which is used to support learning, resources and enrichment opportunities
- Even if your child prefers a packed lunch, applying can still bring valuable benefits to both your child and the school

What you need to do

- If you think you may now be eligible, we strongly encourage you to submit an application before the start of the academic year.
- Applications are quick, confidential and securely processed
- If your child is already receiving Free School Meals, you **do not need to reapply**

Why it's important to apply

- Ensures your child receives all the support they are entitled to
- Helps the school access additional funding to support pupils
- May provide access to further support, such as help with trips or activities

If you would like further information or support with your application, please contact the school office.

We encourage all families to take a few minutes to check their eligibility — this support can make a real difference.