



Monday 6th July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Changes to Free School Meal Eligibility

We would like to let you know about an important change to *Free School Meal* (FSM) eligibility from September 2026.

The Government has announced that from September 2026, all children in England whose families receive Universal Credit will be entitled to a free school meal each day, regardless of household income.

What is changing?

At the moment, families must earn less than £7,400 per year (after tax, not including benefits) to qualify for benefits-related free school meals.

From September 2026, this income limit will be removed for families receiving Universal Credit, meaning more children will be eligible.

When will this start?

This change will begin at the start of the 2026-27 school year in September 2026.

Do I still need to apply?

Yes. You must apply for *Free School Meal* entitlement, it isn't automatic. You can do this using the following link: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-milk>

My child already receives free school meals – do I need to do anything?

No. If your child already receives benefits-related free school meals (not Universal Infant FSM), your eligibility will be checked automatically.

What if my child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2?

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 already receive a free meal through the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) scheme.

However, it is still very important that you apply if you receive Universal Credit, because:

- **The school may receive additional funding to support your child**
- **It helps ensure continued eligibility when your child moves into Year 3**

What do I need to do now?

You can check eligibility and apply online via the Nottinghamshire County Council website:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-milk>

If you need support completing the form or you want to ask further questions, please don't hesitate to contact one of our school offices.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Walker
Executive Head Teacher

