

June 2026

Free School Meals – making sure your child is registered before they start secondary school

Dear families,

We are delighted that your child will be joining us in September, and we are very much looking forward to welcoming them to our school community.

Starting secondary school is an exciting step, and we want everything to be ready so that your child has the best possible start. As part of getting ready, we are writing to make sure your child's Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility is in place before they start. There are also national changes to who qualifies, which mean more families than ever will now be entitled.

What is changing?

From September 2026, any child whose household receives Universal Credit will be entitled to a free school meal — regardless of how much the family earns. Until now, families on Universal Credit only qualified if their household earned £7,400 a year or less after tax. That earnings limit is being removed.

If you receive Universal Credit, your child will qualify. It is worth checking your eligibility even if you have applied before and were turned down, or have never applied because you assumed you earned too much.

Why this matters as your child moves to secondary school

- Free School Meals do not always carry across automatically when your child moves to a new school. To make sure free meals are in place from their very first day in Year 7, the secondary school will need your child's eligibility confirmed.
- Registering now also means your child's new school receives additional funding (known as Pupil Premium) to support their learning throughout secondary school.

What you should do now

- If your child currently receives Free School Meals, please do not assume it will transfer automatically. Check with the secondary school your child will attend, or apply again, so it is confirmed and ready for September.
- If you receive Universal Credit but have never claimed Free School Meals, your child will now qualify - please apply now so everything is in place before they start.
- Applying before the summer break is the best way to avoid any gap, so your child can begin Year 7 with their free meal and support already arranged.

How to check or apply

Applying is quick and your information is handled securely. To check eligibility we will usually need the parent/carer's full name, date of birth and National Insurance number (or NASS reference).



To apply for Free School Meals, you can choose the option that suits you best below:

Apply or check online yourself

You can complete a secure check directly at <https://fsm.lgfl.net/app>. Simply enter the parent/carer's details and you will receive an instant result. Please ensure you select the correct local authority and academy so your school can verify eligibility.

Ask the school to check for you

Contact your school office and provide the details above. We will check on your behalf and confirm the outcome. To apply or ask any questions, please contact your school office, who will be glad to help.

We look forward to welcoming your child in September and to getting to know your family

Our benefits advisor is also available every Thursday via an appointment, to support with free school meals and benefit checks.

Yours faithfully,

Handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Lang". A curved arrow points from the signature down towards the printed name below.

Kat Lang
Principal

