

Important: Changes to Free School Meals (FSM)

Dear Parent / Carer

We are writing to tell you about **important changes to Free School Meals (FSM)**.

These changes may affect your child from **1 September 2026**.

What is changing?

- The government has changed the rules for Free School Meals.
 - These changes are linked to **Universal Credit**.
 - The changes were announced on **11 May**.
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What happens now?

- Since 2018, once your child qualified for FSM, they kept it even if your situation changed.
 - This will **stop on 31 August 2026**.
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What this means for you

- From summer 2026, **all families will need to be checked again**.
- This will be done by **Sheffield City Council**.

This applies to:

- Children who already get FSM
 - Families applying for FSM for the first time
 - After this, checks will happen **every year**.
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Who can get Free School Meals?

There are **two types**:

1. Targeted FSM (includes extra school funding)

You may qualify if:

- You get **Universal Credit** and your household income is **£7,400 or less per year**, or
 - You get support through the **Immigration and Asylum Act (1999)**, or
 - You get **income-related Employment and Support Allowance**, or
 - You get the **guaranteed part of Pension Credit**, or
 - You have **no recourse to public funds (NRPF)**
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2. Expanded FSM (meals only)

You may qualify if:

- You get **Universal Credit** and your income is **above £7,400 per year**
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What should you do?

- If your child **already gets FSM**, you do **not need to apply now**
 - The council will contact you if anything changes
- Please be aware:
 - Some families who get FSM now **may not qualify from September 2026**
- If you are **not getting FSM but think you may qualify**, you can apply online:

 [Apply for free school meals](#)

Our message to you

- We want to make sure **every child who is eligible gets free school meals**
 - Please look out for **more updates from school or the council**
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Need help?

If you have questions, please contact the school:

 elliottk@meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk