

6th July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Changes to School Meals and School Meal Eligibility

We are writing to provide important information about changes to Free School Meals (FSM) from September 2026 and to explain how families can check their eligibility using our new online system. The changes being introduced mean that more children may qualify for support, and we strongly encourage all parents and carers to complete an application, even if they do not believe they are currently eligible.

Many families who do not currently receive Free School Meals may become eligible from September 2026. Even if you do not qualify today, completing an application now means your child's eligibility can be checked automatically in the future, ensuring they receive support as soon as they become entitled to it.

Changes to Free School Meals from September 2026

From September 2026, Free School Meal eligibility will be expanded, meaning that many more families may qualify for support. Families receiving Universal Credit will be eligible, significantly increasing the number of children who can access free school meals

At the same time, previous protected FSM arrangements will end, meaning eligibility will be determined by a family's current circumstances rather than historic entitlement. As a result, it is important that all families ensure they are registered on the new system

Free School Meals provide several benefits, including:

- A healthy and nutritious meal each school day at no cost to families.
- Reduced household food costs and additional financial support.
- Potential additional funding for schools through the Pupil Premium, helping provide extra resources, support and opportunities for pupils.
- Access to other support and assistance that may be linked to FSM eligibility

Why Every Parent Should Apply

We strongly encourage all parents and carers to complete an application, even if you do not believe you are currently eligible.

The new system has been designed to make the process simple and ensure that no child misses out on support they may become entitled to in the future.

Once you have completed the application:

- There is **no need to reapply each year**
- Your details remain securely on the system.
- Eligibility is checked automatically on a regular basis.
- If your circumstances change and your child becomes eligible, the school will be notified automatically.
- Your child can begin receiving Free School Meals at the earliest opportunity without you needing to submit another application

Even if you are not eligible today, completing the application now ensures that your child will not miss out on support in the future. By registering once, the system can continue to check eligibility on your behalf and notify the school when your child becomes entitled to free school meals.

Check your Eligibility Today

Checking eligibility only takes a few minutes and can be completed online using the LGfL Free School Meals Portal

Simply enter the below web address in your browser https://fsm.lgfl.net/app	Or scan this QR Code with your smartphone camera. 
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School Meal Update from September 2026

Whilst writing to families regarding Free School Meals, we would also like to make you aware of a change to school meal prices from September 2026.

Despite our efforts to absorb rising costs over recent years, continued increases in food, energy, transport and staffing costs mean that we must make a small adjustment to our meal prices.

From September 2026, the price of a school meal will increase from £2.70 to £2.90. This decision has not been taken lightly. We have worked hard to keep meal prices as low as possible whilst continuing to provide high-quality, nutritious meals that offer excellent value for money.

For £2.90, pupils will continue to receive:

- A freshly prepared hot meal.
- A dessert.
- A drink.

Alternatively, pupils may choose from our range of grab-and-go options, including sandwiches, wraps, paninis and other lunchtime favourites, with meal deals continuing to include a dessert and drink.

There will also be a small increase to the cost of some individual food items and snacks to reflect increased ingredient and supply costs.

The Summer Menu will be updated to reflect the new prices and will be published on your school's website during the summer holiday, allowing families to view the revised menu and pricing before the start of the new academic year.

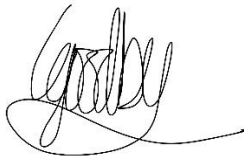
Further Support

If you require any assistance with completing the Free School Meals application, please contact your school's reception team, who will be happy to help.

We cannot stress enough the importance of completing the application, even if you do not think you qualify. Registering now means the system can continue to check eligibility automatically and ensure that your child receives Free School Meals as soon as they become entitled to them.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Mr L Goodby
Trust Operations Manager