



16 June 2026

**Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility changes from September 2026**

Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to inform you of significant changes to the Free School Meal system starting this September. The government has expanded the eligibility criteria, meaning many more students will be entitled to free school lunches. **Please note that if your child currently receives FSM, there is nothing at present that you need to do.**

**What are the changes?**

From the start of the next academic year, the previous income threshold for families on Universal Credit will be removed. There are now two categories of eligibility:

Category	Who is eligible?	What do you receive?
Targeted FSM	This continues to be based on the existing threshold, covering pupils who are in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less. Pupils who are, or have been, eligible for FSM over the last 6 years are part of the 'Ever 6' FSM cohort.	A free school meal <b>PLUS</b> additional "Pupil Premium" funding for the school to support your child's learning.
Expanded FSM	All other families receiving Universal Credit, regardless of their annual earnings.	A free school meal every day for your child. This does <b>NOT</b> include Pupil Premium funding.

Please also note that from the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year, transitional protections for free school meals will end. Households must meet the FSM eligibility criteria from the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year to continue receiving provision.

**Why is this happening?**

This expansion is designed to support more families with the cost of living and ensure every child has access to a healthy meal to help them focus and succeed.

**Actions:**

- **If your child doesn't currently receive** FSM but you believe that they will be eligible for this from the next academic year, please apply as soon as possible. You can apply via this link: [Free School Meals | Leicestershire County Council](#) or ring Leicestershire County Council at: 0116 305 5417.



**QUOD JUSTUM, NON QUOD UTILE**  
*'Do what is right, not what is easy'*

If you believe your child will be eligible next academic year and hasn't been previously, we would also really appreciate you filling out this form: [Free School Meals \(FSM\) Assessment – Fill out form](#).

This is so that we can get an indication of how many more pupils will be having a free school meal and can inform the catering department of the increased numbers. Please fill out this form by **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June**.

- **If your child currently receives FSM there is currently nothing that you need to do. Please note that Leicestershire County Council will be conducting a standard re-check over the summer to ensure you are still eligible. They will be in contact with you if they believe that your child is no longer eligible.**

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please get in touch. My email address is [nwhetton@delisle.leics.sch.uk](mailto:nwhetton@delisle.leics.sch.uk).

Yours faithfully,

Miss Whetton  
Assistant Headteacher