

24 July 2026

Dear families

RE: Important changes to Free School Meals from September 2026

We are writing to let you know about national changes to Free School Meals (FSM) that take effect from the start of the autumn term in September 2026. These changes mean that many more families will now qualify for a free school meal for their child.

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. This 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 may have thought you earned too much.

What this means for you

- If you have not qualified for free school meals and already receive Universal Credit, your child is likely to be newly eligible, please get in touch so we can check or apply yourself following the details below. Please complete either option by Friday 21 August 2026.
- If your child currently receives Free School Meals, their eligibility will need to be rechecked. Until now, some pupils have kept Free School Meals automatically under 'transitional protection', even after their family's circumstances changed. These protections end in summer 2026. From September, your child must meet the current eligibility rules, confirmed by an up-to-date check annually, to keep receiving a free school meal.

How to check or reapply

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 the school can also verify eligibility.

Ask your school to check for you

Fill in the form here with your details [Free School Meal eligibility check – Fill in form](#). We will check on your behalf and confirm the outcome.

To apply or ask any questions, please contact reception at info@dixonsbk.com.

Yours faithfully

Mrs K Gardner
Principal