

Dear Parent/Carer,

Changes to Free School Meals from September 2026 – Action Required

We are writing to let you know about important 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 Free School Meals. At the same time, we need to re-check eligibility for all pupils who currently receive Free School Meals to ensure entitlement is up to date for the 2026/27 school year.

What is changing?

From September 2026, any child whose household receives **Universal Credit** will be entitled to Free School Meals, regardless of household earnings.

Previously, families receiving Universal Credit were only eligible if their household earned **£7,400 or less per year after tax**. This earnings threshold is being removed.

This means that many families who were previously not entitled to Free School Meals may now qualify.

If your child currently receives Free School Meals - Action is required.

Until now, some pupils have continued to receive Free School Meals under transitional protection arrangements, even if their family's circumstances changed. These protections end in summer 2026.

To continue receiving Free School Meals from September 2026, we must carry out a new eligibility check.

Please confirm your eligibility by Friday 17 July 2026.

By visiting: <https://fsm.lgfl.net/app>

Once you have submitted your information, you will receive an instant result. If your application is successful, your child will be automatically registered for Free School Meals ready for **September 2026**.

Please make sure you select the correct local authority for the postcode where you live eg if you live in Middleton you will select Rochdale, if you live in Chadderton, you will select Oldham; and academy (Dixons Middleton Academy) so that we can verify the result.

If your child does not currently receive Free School Meals

You may now be eligible under the new rules.

If your household receives **Universal Credit**, it is worth checking your eligibility even if:

- You have applied before and were refused.
- You have never applied because you believed your earnings were too high.
- Your circumstances have changed since a previous application.

Check by inputting your details here: <https://fsm.lgfl.net/app>

The check is secure, quick and provides an instant result. If your application is successful, your child will be automatically registered for Free School Meals ready for **September 2026**.

Need help?

If you do not have access to a computer, tablet or smartphone and need the school to complete the eligibility check on your behalf, please reply to this message with:

YESFSM

A member of staff will then contact you to complete the check.

If you have any questions about this letter, please reply with YESFSM, and we will endeavour to respond within 5 working days.

Your sincerely,



Janine Kellett
Principal