

# **Guide to Free School Meals Applications 2026-2026**

## **What are Free School Meals?**

Free school meals provide vital nutrition for children during the school day. We've just announced that many more families will be eligible. Here's what parents need to know.

## **What is changing in September 2026**

### **Two Tiers of free school meal:**

- **Targeted FSM**
  - For lower-income households (under £7,400 earnings)
  - Includes extra support (like pupil premium funding)
- **Expanded FSM**
  - For all other families on Universal Credit
  - Still provides free meals, but without additional funding

### **Protected Eligibility is Ending:**

- Everyone must reapply
- It does not transfer from primary to secondary school

## **Who needs to apply?**

- Anyone on universal credit (for expanded FSM)
- Universal Credit - with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 (For targeted FSM)
- Income Support (IS)
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance (IBJSA)
- an income-related employment and support allowance (ESA)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of the State Pension Credit

## **How do I apply?**

Follow the instructions on: <https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>

If you do not have access to the internet, or need support in completing these forms please email [office@waddesdonschool.com](mailto:office@waddesdonschool.com) FAO Anna Ewart.