

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS (FSM)

STARTING FROM SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

We would like to inform you about important changes to Free School Meals (FSM) starting from September 2026.



WHAT HAS CHANGED?

- All children in households receiving Universal Credit in England will now be eligible for free school meals.
- The previous earnings limit of £7,400 has been removed.



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOUR FAMILY

- If you receive Universal Credit, your child can now get free school meals, **no matter how much you earn.**



IMPORTANT UPDATE ABOUT PREVIOUS PROTECTIONS

- Some families previously kept free school meals under “transitional protection.”
- This protection will end in September 2026.
- If you no longer receive Universal Credit, you will need to reapply and meet the new criteria to continue receiving free meals.

≧ TWO TYPES OF ELIGIBILITY ≦

1

TARGETED SUPPORT (EARNING £7,400 OR LESS)

Your child will receive:

- ✓ Free school meals
- ✓ Extra support



2

EXPANDED SUPPORT (EARNING OVER £7,400)

Your child will receive:

- ✓ Free school meals only



ANNUAL CHECKS

- Eligibility will now be checked once a year at the start of the school term.
- This helps make sure there are no changes during the school year.



WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- If you receive Universal Credit, please ensure your child is registered for free school meals with the school or local authority – [Telford & Wrekin Council | Free School Meals](#)
- If your circumstances have changed, you may need to reapply – [Telford & Wrekin Council | Free School Meals](#)

FREE SCHOOL MEALS MEAN MORE THAN JUST LUNCH!

They help support your child's learning, wellbeing and future opportunities.



DON'T MISS OUT – APPLY OR CHECK YOUR STATUS TODAY!

For more information or to apply, visit:
[Telford & Wrekin Council | Free School Meals](#)