

1 June 2026

Our Ref: Off1/Yrgrop/WHOLE/AR

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: **CHANGES TO FREE SCHOOL MEAL ELIGIBILITY FROM 2026**

We are writing to inform you of upcoming changes to the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals, which will come into effect from September 2026.

The Government has updated the criteria used to determine which families qualify for Free School Meals. As a result, some families who are currently eligible may no longer meet the new requirements, while others who were not previously eligible may now qualify.

If your child is currently receiving Free School Meals, their entitlement will continue until the end of this term. It will not carry on into the next academic year, unless you submit a new application based on your current circumstances.

Please [click here](#) to fill in your details to apply or reapply. If you prefer a paper copy, these can be collected from the front office.

The updated eligibility criteria from 1 September will be that children may receive free school meals if either of their parents/carers gets any of the following benefits

- Universal Credit (no household income cap)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (**provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit**) and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Under the new guidelines, all children receiving Free School Meals will need to be re-checked termly to ensure ongoing eligibility.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Rudall
Assistant Head Teacher

