

Registration form for free school meal eligibility

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Changes to Free School Meals (from September 2026)

We are writing to inform you about important national changes to Free School Meals (FSM) that will take effect from September 2026. These changes may affect your child's eligibility, either now or in the future.

What is changing?

From September 2026 all children in households receiving Universal Credit will be eligible for free school meals, regardless of income. This means many more families will be able to access free school meals.

End of current protections

At present, once a child qualifies for free school meals, they usually keep that entitlement even if family circumstances change, this is called Transitional Protection. This protection will continue until the end of the 2025/26 school year. From September 2026, eligibility will be based on your current circumstances. This means some children may gain or lose eligibility depending on changes to household income or benefits.

Important: You still need to apply

Even if you receive Universal Credit, free school meals are not automatically given. You **must still apply** through school. If you think your child may be eligible, we strongly encourage you to apply.

You only need to complete this form once. Subsequent rechecks of your eligibility will be carried out annually to assess whether you continue to be eligible for free school meals. Should you move your child to a new school, your child's new school may proactively assess whether you continue to be eligible for free school meals. You should contact the school or local authority if you have a change in financial circumstances.

We are committed to ensuring that the personal and sensitive information that we hold about you is protected and kept safe and secure, and we have measures in place to prevent the loss, misuse or alteration of your personal information. We will use the information you provide to assess entitlement to free school meals. The information may also be shared with other Council departments to offer benefits and services.

What to do

To see if your children can get free school meals (FSM), please fill in all sections of this form and return it to their school.

If there is any information you cannot find, or you are having problems understanding, contact the schools for help.

Your details

Enter the details of the parent or guardian who is applying for free school meals.

First name

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Last name

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Date of birth (DD/MM/YYYY)

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National insurance number (if you have one)

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Asylum support reference number (previously NASS reference number)

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Contact phone number (this can be a mobile number)

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Contact email (We'll use your email to address to confirm your application or for more information)

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Children and school details

Include all children that will be attending this school. Print extra sheets if you need them.

Child 1								
First name								
Last name								
Date of birth (DD/MM/YYYY)								
Include details of child's previous school (optional)								
School name								
School postcode								

Child 2								
First name								
Last name								
Date of birth (DD/MM/YYYY)								
Include details of child's previous school (optional)								
School name								
School postcode								

Declaration

By signing below, I confirm that: I allow the sharing of the above data with the schools my children attend and its local authority, for the purpose of providing free school meals if entitlement is confirmed. This includes re-applying for free school meals in future.

Signature

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Date (DD/MM/YYYY)

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Once completed, please return this form to your child's school