



For Learning That Lasts A Lifetime

10th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may be aware that the Government is expanding the eligibility for Free School Meals to all households in receipt of Universal Credit from September 2026.

Up to now, eligibility was limited to those eligible to Universal Credit with income below £7,400 or those covered by the transitional protection.

There will be 2 categories of free school meals from September 2026:

Targeted FSM

Families in receipt of Universal Credit with earnings of £7,400 or less. These pupils will receive the free school meal, reduced cost KCC Travel Saver bus pass and access to the Holiday Activities and Food Programme. In addition, the school will receive pupil premium funding.

Expanded FSM

Families in receipt of Universal Credit with earnings above the income threshold (£7,400). These pupils will receive the free school meal only.

Transitional protections for Free School Meals have been in effect since April 2018. This has meant that pupils becoming eligible for free meals under the benefits-based criteria have retained their entitlement, even if their household earnings improved above the threshold. From the start of the 2026-2027 academic year, transitional protections for FSM will end and households must meet the FSM eligibility criteria to continue receiving provision.

This means that we will now be required to check all FSM entitlements annually, but you only need to apply once.

Please complete the FSM Application Form to check your eligibility for September 2026.

There is no need to complete the form if you have already made an application.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals>

Your information will be held on file and used to re-check your eligibility every year.

If you apply now, Expanded FSM applications will be processed ready for your child's free school meals to start in September 2026.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Craig Ward
Headteacher