



June 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Changes in eligibility for Free School Meals from September 2026

We are writing to inform you about important national changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility, which will take effect from September 2026.

We want to make sure that we are providing all children with the best education and support we can. Healthy school food can help children establish healthy habits for life and improve their readiness to learn.

What is changing?

From September 2026, all children in households receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to free school meals, regardless of household income.

This means the current income cap of £7,400 per year will be removed, and many more families may now qualify.

Free school meals can save families up to around £495 per child each year, while ensuring children receive a healthy meal during the school day.

Different types of support

There will be two levels of eligibility:

1. Targeted Free School Meals

Families on lower incomes (for example, those receiving Universal Credit below £7,400 or certain other benefits) will continue to receive:

- Free school meals
- Additional support for the school through Pupil Premium funding
- Access to holiday activities and food programmes

2. Expanded Free School Meals

Families receiving Universal Credit with higher earnings will now also qualify for:

- Free school meals

However, this group will not attract additional funding or access to the holiday programme.

What you need to do

To receive free school meals under the new system:

You can apply from 1 June 2026; you do not need to reapply unless your circumstances change.

Please submit an application for each child. Applications can be made via your local authority's online system using the link below.

<https://parentportal.wiltshire.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/parents/free-school-meals>

You can also complete the Free School Meals Application Form, below, and return it to the school office, or send it to:

Free School Meals

Revenues and Benefits

Wiltshire Council

County Hall

Trowbridge

BA14 8JN

We strongly encourage all families receiving Universal Credit to apply, even if you think you may not qualify.

Important information for younger children;

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to receive universal infant free school meals. However, if you receive qualifying benefits, we still encourage you to apply, as this may unlock additional support for your child and school.

Why this matters

Registering for free school meals not only supports your child directly, but can also provide additional funding to the school, helping us to further support pupils' learning and wellbeing.

If you have any questions or would like support with your application, please contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Dazz Budgell

School Business Manager

St Andrew's Primary School

- I confirm that I am currently in receipt of one of the benefits below. Please tick the box to indicate which benefit you are currently in receipt of. **Without this information we cannot process your claim.**

☐	Universal Credit
☐	support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
☐	Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
☐	the guarantee element of State Pension Credit

If you do meet the eligibility criteria, you can contact the free school meals administration team by emailing fsm@wiltshire.gov.uk or telephone 01225 713780 for guidance on how to make an application.

[illegible]

*** We cannot process your application without these**

Please turn over

Please complete details below for **ALL dependant children** that you wish to claim free school meals for (they may go to different Wiltshire schools).

Legal First Name	Legal Surname	Date of Birth	Male or Female	School Attended	Your relationship to the child

I sign to certify that the information I have given is correct and I understand it is fraudulent to give false information.

I agree that you will use the information provided to assess my current and ongoing eligibility to claim Free School Meals. I understand this information may be shared with organisations you work with to provide services to me. I understand that my entitlement to Free School Meals will continue only for as long as I receive one of the qualifying benefits. I agree to inform the Free School Meals team **IMMEDIATELY** if my benefit or tax credit entitlement changes or if I change my name or address.

We will keep and use your personal information in line with the requirements of the data protection legislation. Please see our privacy notice below which explains with whom we are obliged to share your data with.

Signed.....**Date**.....

The completed form can be returned to your child's school. They will forward it to us on your behalf. If you prefer, you can send it direct to:



Free School Meals, Revenues and Benefits, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 8JN



(Tel) 01225 713780



(Email) fsm@wiltshire.gov.uk



(Web) www.wiltshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Privacy Notice

Wiltshire Council will keep and use your personal information in line with the requirements of the data protection legislation and we are the data controller for the information provided on this form.

The Council's Data Protection Office can be contacted at informationgovernance@wiltshire.gov.uk

The information you have provided to the Council will be used by the Benefits Department to determine entitlement to Free School Meals in conjunction with other welfare benefits that the council administers. Information will only be shared among officers and other agencies where it is necessary and lawful. We will not share your data with any other third parties unless we are required or permitted to do so by law.

We may use the information you have provided on this form within this Authority for the prevention and detection of fraud. We may also share this information with other bodies administering or in receipt of public funds, such as HM Revenues and Customs.

The Council participates in data matching exercises through the National Fraud Initiative. These exercises match the data held by the Council with that of other agencies, including other local authorities and government departments to:

- Prevent or detect benefit fraud or any other crime;
- Support national fraud initiatives; and
- Protect public funds

For more information about how your personal data is used, including your rights as a data subject, please see our privacy notice at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/benefits-privacy-benefits>