



# Free School Meals

Changes from September 2026

## What is changing?

- The Government is **changing the rules for Free School Meals from September 2026**
- This means **all children who currently get Free School Meals will be checked again before September 2026** to make sure they still qualify
- If your child no longer qualifies, **you may need to pay for their school meals from September 2026**
- **All families receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to Free School Meals** under the new rules
- After this, **children receiving Free School Meals will be checked every year**



## Who can get Free School Meals?

Your child may be eligible if you receive certain benefits.

If you qualify, **Free School Meals will be split into two groups**, depending on your circumstances.

# Two types of Free School Meals?

## Targeted Free School Meals?

For lower income families and those on certain benefits

This includes families who receive:

- Universal Credit with household earnings below £7,400
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- No Recourse to Public Funds (ask your school for an application form)

You get:

- Free meals
- Your child's school will receive extra funding, called Pupil Premium, to help support your child
- Families who have recently become eligible for Targeted Free School Meals (FSM) may qualify for our Uniform Incentive. Please contact the School Office for further details.

## Expanded Free School Meals

For other families receiving Universal Credit.

- Universal Credit with household earnings above £7,400

You get:

- Free meals only

## Infant children (Reception, Year 1, Year 2)

- All children get free school meals
- Please still apply for benefit-related Free School Meals if you are eligible – it helps your child's school provide additional support.

## Nursery-age children

- If your child attends a school nursery before and after lunch, they may get Free School Meals if you qualify.
- Apply the same way as for school-age children.
- Private nurseries are not included.

## Do I need to do anything?

### Already getting Free School Meals?

- You do **NOT** need to apply again
- We will contact you if needed

## How to apply

### Apply online:



**Apply for free school meals | Birmingham City Council**



Scan QR Code or go to link

**<https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/entrust>**

Need help? Please contact your school office by phone or email.