

Bollington St. John's Church of England
Primary School



Where talent grows

Head Teacher: Mrs M. Walker

Head of Teaching, Learning and Assessment: Mrs E. Watson

Free School Meals

Dear families,

We write to explain the new three categories of government funded free school meals schemes, as changes came into force on 1 September 2026.

1) Universal Free School Meals

While your child is in Key Stage 1 at primary school i.e., Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, he/she will automatically receive a free school meal every week day under the Government's Universal Infants Free School Meal scheme (UIFSM). You do not have to register for this.

2) Targeted Free School Meals

Children of families who are in receipt of certain benefits, regardless of school year, are entitled to receive a free school meal every day. You **do** need to register for this. Your child may be entitled to targeted free school meals if you receive one or more of the following:

- Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- the guarantee element of Pension Credit
- support through the no recourse to public funds (NRPF) scheme

Other support for children, such as the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme and extra help with school travel, will be based on targeted free school meal eligibility.

Schools also receive additional funding, known as pupil premium, for children who qualify for targeted free school meals.

3) Expanded Free School Meals

Your child may be entitled to expanded free school meals if you receive Universal Credit and your annual household income is more than £7,400.

Children who qualify for expanded free school meals are not eligible for pupil premium. You **must** apply to receive expanded free school meals.

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to please consider whether you are eligible for Targeted or Expanded Free School Meals. If you are, then we would be grateful if you would apply (even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2), as every successful application secures additional funding (Pupil Premium) for our school.

Please consider the list above and, if you meet any of the criteria, there is a simple method to check eligibility and apply on the Cheshire East Council website by following this link:
https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/free_school_meals.aspx

Nursery-age children may also be eligible if they attend a school-based nursery or maintained nursery school. Children who attend part time must attend both before and after lunch.

If you have any questions, or if we can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

With kind regards,



Mrs Melanie Walker
Headteacher

