

# FREE SCHOOL MEALS (FSM) CHANGES

## Important Information for Parents and Carers

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### Changes from September 2026

Free School Meals (FSM) are changing from **1 September 2026**. These changes may affect your child.

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### What you need to know

- Government changes were announced on 8 May 2026
  - Current FSM protections will end on 31 August 2026
  - Eligibility will need to be re-checked before 1 September 2026 (and regularly going forwards)
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### Check your eligibility

Sheffield City Council will review FSM eligibility. This applies to:

- ✓ Pupils currently receiving FSM
  - ✓ Families applying for the first time
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### Who is entitled to Free School Meals?

You may be eligible if you receive:

- Universal Credit:
    - With an income of £7,400 or less = Free meals + extra school funding
    - An income above £7,400 = Free meals
  - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
  - Pension Credit (guaranteed element)
  - Support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
  - No recourse to public funds (NRPF)
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### Apply now - don't miss out

If you think you qualify and your child is not currently receiving FSM, apply online at <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/schools-childcare/school/school-meals>.

(You **do not** need to apply if you are already receiving income-based free school meals in a Sheffield school - we will be in touch if anything has changed).

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### Current arrangements

All existing FSM support will continue until 31 August 2026.

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### More information

Further updates will be shared before September 2026. If you need help, please contact your school.