



**Waverton Community Primary School**  
Common Lane, Waverton  
Chester CH3 7QT  
Telephone (01244) 268985  
www.waverton.cheshire.sch.uk  
Email: admin@waverton.cheshire.sch.uk  
**Head Teacher: Mrs Carla Cartwright**



***Learning together. Achieving together.***

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The government recognises the benefits of providing a healthy school meal to the most disadvantaged pupils.

The Education Act 1996 as amended, places a duty on maintained schools, academies and free schools to provide free school meals (FSM) to pupils of all ages that meet the criteria.

**From September 2026**, the criteria for receiving FSM will change. We therefore encourage all families to check to see if they are eligible, and if so to apply. All the information regarding the new eligibility criteria, including the link to apply, can be found by clicking on the following link:

[Free school meals | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

**If you are currently in receipt of FSM, you do not need to reapply**

Please note Free School Meals (FSM) are different to Universal Free School Meals (UFSM), which are still given to those children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. We still however encourage families who have children in these year groups to apply for FSM, if you think you qualify as this may allow you to access additional benefits such as the Holiday Activities/Food schemes and School Holiday Support Payments.

Please see below important information from the School Relationship Team with regards to the Crisis Resilience Fund as it is currently and how it will be changing from September 2026

Yours sincerely,

*C Cartwright*

C Cartwright  
Headteacher

**The School Relationship Team have asked that the below information is shared with all parents/guardians:**

We are writing to inform families about summer holiday support from the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF).

**Summer holiday support is available for families**

Families who receive Free School Meals and need help with essential food costs during the summer holidays can apply for support through the Council's Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF).

Applications for summer holiday payments will open on Tuesday, 30 June 2026 and close on Monday, 31 August 2026.

Apply online: <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/benefits-and-welfare-help/cost-of-living/crisis-and-resilience-fund/school-holiday-support-payment>

**Changes to the CRF from September 2026**

The Crisis and Resilience Fund replaced the Household Support Fund in April 2026. It ensures that financial support is available for families who need it and gives longer term support to boost income and manage debt.

To support families during the transition to the Crisis and Resilience Fund, so far payments have been awarded to all applicants who were in receipt of FSM and provided requested evidence. The same approach will apply during the summer holidays.

From September 2026, however, the Crisis and Resilience Fund will solely be there to help people who experience an unexpected financial crisis. Applicants will need to explain the financial shock they have experienced and how this has placed them in crisis.

**Expanded Free School Meal eligibility from September 2026**

From September 2026, all pupils in households receiving Universal Credit will become entitled to free school meals (FSM).

Pupils who already qualify because their household earnings are £7,400 or less will continue to qualify. The change will extend entitlement to more families, meaning more children will be able to apply to receive Free School Meals.

To find out more, visit:

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/free-school-meals>

**Not just school holidays**

If you aren't in receipt of Free School Meals, the [Crisis and Resilience Fund](#) can still help you with various costs. Visit the webpage for more information about support with:

- [Crisis payments](#)
- [Help in Emergencies for Local People \(HELP\)](#)
- [Housing Payments and Discretionary Hardship Payments](#)
- [Heating oil support](#)

**Other support**

There is also information and support available on the Council's cost of living webpages, which bring together resources about financial help, advice services, and emergency assistance:

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/benefits-and-welfare-help/cost-of-living>