



June 2026

Dear Parents,

As you may have heard, the Government are making the following changes to the entitlement of Free School meals from September 2026:

- 1) **All families in receipt of Universal Credit, or with an income below £7,400, will be entitled to Free School meals (FSM) for the academic year 2026-27.**
If your application is successful you will be given one of two categories; *EXTENDED* (Your child is entitled to FSM) or *TARGETED* (Your child is entitled to FSM and the school will receive some Pupil Premium funding).
- 2) **All Free School Meal (FSM) entitlement will be subject to a yearly review.**
In previous years, the entitlement to FSM was protected regardless of whether your situation changes. This protection has now ended and all pupils currently in receipt of FSM will automatically be rechecked each academic year. We will inform you if you no longer qualify.

Please find below more details specific to your child's year group.

We are happy to apply for FSM on your behalf. If you would like us to do this, please fill in the form overleaf and return back to school.

Alternatively you can apply direct on

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/Schools-and-education/At-school/Free-school-meals/Free-school-meals.aspx>

PUPILS IN RECEPTION - YEAR 2

Pupils in these years will continue to receive an **Infant** Free School Meal as usual regardless of your income, however we encourage you to also apply for **the Income Based** Free School Meals as the school may be entitled to the extra pupil premium funding if successful.

PUPILS MOVING FROM YEAR 2 TO YEAR 3

When your child moves into year 3, they will no longer be eligible for **Infant** Free School Meals (UFSM). However you may be eligible for **Income Based** Free School Meals instead. We encourage you to apply, otherwise you will be charged for meals from September.

If you already receive **income based** FSM meals on top of the UFSM, you must still reapply - the eligibility will **NOT** automatically transfer over.

PUPILS IN YEAR 3 – YEAR 6

If you **DO NOT** currently receive Income Based Free School Meals

We strongly encourage all families to apply if you receive any form of Universal Credit or if your household income is below £7,400 per year.

If you **DO** currently receive Income Based Free School Meals

You do not need to take any action. Your eligibility will automatically be checked every year and we will inform you if you no longer qualify.

Mrs Deborah Hartley
BA hons, P.G.C.E, Adv.Dip
Headteacher

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Application form for Free School Meals Eligibility

Dear Parents/guardians,

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

You may be entitled to receive free school meals if you are in receipt of certain benefits or support. You could also raise additional pupil premium funding for your child's school.

What to do

To see if your children can get free school meals (FSM), please fill in all sections of this form and return it to school. This will allow us to check your eligibility.

You only need to complete this form once. Subsequent rechecks of your eligibility will be carried out annually. You should contact the school if you have a change in financial circumstances.

We are committed to ensuring that the personal and sensitive information that we hold about you is protected and kept safe. We will only use the information you provide to check your entitlement to free school meals. The information may also be shared with other council departments to offer benefits and services.

Please complete all sections of this form:

DETAILS OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN APPLYING FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS	
Full name	
Date of birth	/ /
National Insurance Number	
Asylum support reference (if applicable)	

DETAILS OF CHILD	
Full name	
Date of birth	

DECLARATION	
By signing below, I confirm that I allow the use of the data in this form to be used to check whether my children are entitled to free school meal and I understand that this will be shared with the local authority.	
Signature	
Date	/ /

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