

9th June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Free School Meals Changes for September 2026 – Important Information for Parents and Carers

We are writing to inform you about important changes to Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility that will come into effect from September 2026.

Expanded Free School Meals Entitlement

The Government is expanding eligibility for benefit-related Free School Meals from September 2026. As a result, some families who have not previously qualified may now be entitled to receive Free School Meals for their child(ren).

We strongly encourage all families who are not currently receiving Free School Meals to check their eligibility and submit an application if appropriate. Even if you have applied in the past and were unsuccessful, your circumstances may now meet the new criteria.

Further information about these changes is available in the document ["Understand Free School Meals Eligibility Changes from September 2026"](#) which can be found on the Norfolk County Council Free School Meals webpage. <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>

Families with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

Households with **No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)** should be aware that applications must be submitted each year.

If your family has NRPF status and you believe your child may be eligible, please complete the [NCC NRPF FSM Application Form](#) available on the Norfolk County Council Free School Meals webpage. <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals> Annual re-application is required to ensure continued entitlement.

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Benefits of Applying

Applying for Free School Meals can provide significant benefits for both pupils and schools.

For pupils, eligibility may provide:

- Access to a nutritious meal during the school day.
- Support for learning, wellbeing and participation in school life.
- Access to additional support and opportunities that may be linked to FSM eligibility.

For schools, successful applications can help secure additional funding through the Pupil Premium, enabling schools to provide further support, resources and opportunities for eligible pupils.

More information about these benefits is available on the Norfolk County Council website and within the [NCC FSM Application Form](#)

If Your Child Already Receives Free School Meals

If your child is already receiving benefit-related Free School Meals, **you do not need to re-apply**.

Norfolk County Council will automatically check your entitlement and will send confirmation before the end of the summer holiday. This confirmation will also include details of how to contact the team if you have any questions about your eligibility.

Further Information

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact the Free School Meals team at:

fsm@norfolk.gov.uk

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mrs H Watts
Executive Principal

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