

Dear Family,

Free School Meal Provision Is Changing

We are writing to make you aware that **Free School Meals (FSM)** provision is changing from September 2026. From September 2026, FSM will be divided into two categories: **Targeted Free School Meals and Expanded Free Meals.**

Targeted Free School Meals

- Eligibility Criteria – Households receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings of no more than £7,400. This is the same as the current eligibility criteria.
- What does this entitle your child to?
 - A school meal with the value of £2.80 per day (£2.66 from DfE and the remaining amount subsidised from the Trust)
 - A place on the Holidays and Activities Food Programme (HAF)
 - Free school to home travel. Subject to meeting the other eligibility criteria

Expanded Free School Meals

- Eligibility Criteria – Households receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings of **more than** £7,400.
- What does this entitle your child to?
 - A school meal with the value of £2.80 per day (£2.66 from DfE and the remaining amount subsidised from the Trust)

Free School Meals are not only a valuable support for families, but they also provide wider benefits to your child's school in the form of additional funding that helps us to support learning, wellbeing and enrichment opportunities.

Why it matters

Even if your child does not always take a school meal, it is important that we know if your family is eligible. That's because:

- **The school receives additional funding** called the *Pupil Premium*, which we use to provide extra support in and out of the classroom.
- **Our payment systems are electronic and discreet**, so no child is ever identified as receiving Free School Meals.

How can you check your eligibility?

It's quick and easy to check if you're eligible and apply. Click this link and fill in your details - [LGfL Free School Meals Eligibility Checker | LGfL](#)

What should you do if you meet a requirement, you didn't before?

Apply to your Local Authority, please click this link or request a paper copy of the application form at your school's reception. <https://shirelandcat.org.uk/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

If you would prefer to speak to someone, or you have any questions about the process, please do not hesitate to **contact the school office** and we will be happy to help.

Thank you for taking the time to check, your application could make a real difference to your child and to the wider school community.

Yours sincerely,



Ms N Jones
Principal