

Dear Parent/Carer,

June 2026

Re: Free School Meals – Essential Action: All eligibility will end on the 31st August and only those who re-apply and are found eligible will receive Free School Meals from September.

We are writing to inform you of important national changes to Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility that will come into effect in September. These changes may affect your child's entitlement, so please read the information below carefully.

What is changing?

The Government has announced updates to the Free School Meals system, including:

- **New eligibility criteria from September 2026:** All parents and carers receiving Universal Credit will qualify for Free School Meals either as Targeted FSM or Expanded FSM. This replaces the current system, where only families earning below a specific threshold were eligible.
- **Transitional protection ending in September 2026:** Transitional protection was introduced to ensure families continued receiving FSM during the rollout of Universal Credit. From September 2026, this protection will end. This means that families must meet the new eligibility criteria to continue receiving Free School Meals. If, upon review, a family no longer meets the criteria, their FSM entitlement will stop.

What happens now?

- All students currently entitled to Free School Meals will continue to receive them **until the end of this academic year (17 July 2026)**.
- From **September 2026**, Free School Meals will only continue if eligibility has been rechecked and confirmed.
- Families should check their eligibility using the official website: <https://fsm.lgfl.net/> This process is quick and secure.

If you experience any difficulties checking your eligibility, please contact the school for support at:
headteacherpa@swakeleys.org.uk

Thank you for taking the time to review this important update. Ensuring your eligibility is checked before September will help avoid any disruption to your child's Free School Meals entitlement.

Yours sincerely,



Zoe Wilkins
PA to the Headteacher