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17 June 2026

Update to Free School Meals (FSM) Eligibility

Dear families

We are writing to let you know about some upcoming changes to Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility, which will take effect from September 2026.

What's changing?

From September 2026, the eligibility rules are changing. This means more families who receive Universal Credit may now qualify for Free School Meals.

What this means for you

If your child already receives Free School Meals, their eligibility will be checked again before the new school year. If North Lincs Council (NLC) does not have all the information needed, you may be asked to provide some updated details. If you have applied before and NLC holds your email address, you will be sent an email to confirm the outcome of the check.

Please note the transitional protections that have been in place since April 2018 will end at the close of this school term. This means that some families may no longer qualify under the new rules.

What you need to do

If you have already applied and your circumstances have not changed:

You do not need to do anything at this time.

If you have not applied before:

We encourage you to apply, even if your child is currently in Reception, Year 1, or Year 2 and receives universal free school meals.

You can apply here:

[School food and free school meals - North Lincolnshire Council](#)

Once your child's eligibility is confirmed, it will last for the full school year. It will only be reviewed again during that school year if you or the school request it.

Planning ahead for Year 3 and above

If your child is in Year 3 or above and no longer eligible for Free School Meals after the re-check, please make sure you have arrangements in place for their lunches from September.

If you have any questions or would like support with your application, please contact the Free School Meals team either by email fsm@northlincs.gov.uk or by calling NLC on 01724 297000.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Kind regards



Mr D Callaghan
Executive Headteacher