



Diocese of Salisbury

Academy Trust

'Beyond expectations for all of God's children'

Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust
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Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to inform you of important changes to Free School Meals (FSM) which will affect schools and families.

What is changing:

From 1 September 2026, all children with a parent or carer receiving Universal Credit will be eligible for Free School Meals, although this will be divided into two categories:

1. Targeted Eligibility - Families receiving Universal Credit and earning less than £7,400 per year

- FSM eligibility will begin as soon as your application is approved
- You may also be entitled to additional support, including the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme
- Your child's school will receive Pupil Premium funding to support learning.

2. Expanded Eligibility - Families receiving Universal Credit and earning over £7,400 per year

- This group will receive Free School Meals only
- Eligibility will begin from 1 September 2026

Reapplication required

- All families currently receiving Free School Meals must reapply. If you do not reapply, your child may not continue to receive meals from September 2026. If your circumstances have changed, you may no longer be eligible under the new rules.
- You must submit a separate application for each child, even if they attend the same school.

Applications

- Applications opened from 1 June 2026
- All applications will be assessed under the new criteria
- Approved applications will remain valid until 31 August 2027

You can apply here:

[Apply for Free School Meals – Dorset Council](#) or call 01305 221090

[Apply for Free School Meals – Wiltshire Council](#) or call 01225 713780

You will need your National Insurance number and details of your universal credit claim.

Why this matters?

Registering for Free School Meals ensures:

- Your child can receive a free, nutritious meal each school day
- The school may receive additional funding to support learning, resources and wellbeing
- Access to additional programmes and support where eligible

Need any further help?

If you are unsure whether you qualify or need further support completing an application, please contact your school office.

For further queries, you can also contact: freeshoolmeals@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk and fsm@wiltshire.gov.uk

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,



Julie Farmer
Lead Hub Business Manager