



Dear Parent or Carer,

July 2026

We are writing to inform you about important national changes to Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility that will take effect at the start of the 2026/27 academic year this September.

What is changing?

The Department for Education is expanding Free School Meals to all children whose households receive Universal Credit.

- **Expanded Eligibility:** All children from households receiving Universal Credit are now eligible for free school meals, regardless of household earnings.
- **End of Transitional Protections:** The automatic protections that previously allowed families to keep their free school meals when their income increased have ended.

How this affects your child:

Depending on your household earnings, your eligibility will fall into one of two categories:

- **Targeted FSM:** If your household earns <£7400 annually (excluding benefits), your child receives free school meals and the school receives extra "Pupil Premium" funding to support their education.
- **Expanded FSM:** If your household earns above £7400 annually but you receive Universal Credit, your child will receive free school meals only.
- **Note:** *All children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 will continue to automatically receive free school meals under the Universal Infant scheme.*

How to apply via Trafford Council

Even if you think your household income has changed, we strongly encourage all families on Universal Credit to apply. Trafford Council uses a secure online system that links to the national database to give you an instant decision.

- **Apply Online:** Please visit the Trafford Schools Online Free School Meals Form <https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-trafford>

This can also be accessed via our School Website

- **Information Needed:** You will need your National Insurance number (or National Asylum Support Service number) and your date of birth.
- **More Details:** For further guidance on eligibility criteria, please visit Trafford Council Free School Meals.

If your application is successful, the council will notify us automatically, and your child's school meals will be updated seamlessly. We ask that you apply as soon as possible, before the start of the academic year in September so that we can update records accordingly.

If you do not have internet access or need assistance completing the online form, please contact the school office, and a member of our team will be happy to help you.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Rachel Ross
Headteacher