



West Park

'A caring school where we put pupils and their achievement first'

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17th June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Action required from parents/carers in order for pupils to maintain/receive free school meals

Please read carefully

From September 2026 the eligibility for free school meals criteria is changing.

All children from households in receipt of Universal Credit will now be eligible for a free school meal from September 2026.

Previously, this was limited to households in receipt of Universal Credit with an income of less than £7400.

If you are in receipt of Universal Credit you will need to apply, or re-apply, for your child to have free school meals from September. Please do so as soon as possible by following the link below **by Friday 26th June 2026**. This will ensure your application is approved and your child will be on the system to receive free school meals from September.

[Eligibility for Free School Meals – Fill out form](#)

For clarity, everyone in receipt of Universal Credit needs to apply for free school meals from September. Even if your child already receives free school meals, and you believe you will remain entitled to them, you still need to submit another application to maintain your child's eligibility for a free school meal.

It is also important to note that transitional protections for free school meals will end this academic year. Transitional protection has been in place since April 2018. Pupils that became eligible for free school meals under the old criteria, would have retained their entitlement even if the household circumstances changed and the eligibility criteria was no longer met. From September 2026 these children will no longer receive a free school meal.

If you have any queries, please get in touch.

Kind regards

J Clamp

J Clamp
Assistant Head