

Ref: RDE/FSM Universal Credit

Wednesday 16th September

Universal Credit Applications for Free School Meals

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing to share an important reminder about Free School Meals (FSM) and recent government changes that may affect your child's eligibility.

Important changes from September 2026

From September 2026, the government is changing the criteria for Free School Meals. All families receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to Free School Meals (FSM), regardless of household income.

You may be able to get Universal Credit if you're on a low income or need help with your living costs. Eligibility may include:

- being out of work or working part-time on a low income (including self-employed).
- unable to work, for example because of a health condition;

To ensure that you are registered correctly, the following may apply:

- If you receive Universal Credit, you need to apply for FSM in order to receive them for this academic year (September 2026).
- If your child received FSM at primary school, and they have started year 7 this September, you will need to re-apply through Sandwell Council.
- Families with children who already receive Free School Meals (in years 8 and above) do not need to take any action.

Applications can be made via the Sandwell Council Free School Meals page using this link or the QR code below: <https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/schools-education/free-school-meals>.

Yours faithfully,



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Life to the full in pursuit of what is good, right and true.



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