



Rugby Free

Secondary School

Headteacher: Mr I Green

Monday 6th July 2026

Important changes to Free School Meals and School Funding

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to let you know about some important national changes to Free School Meals (FSM) and how schools receive funding to support children.

If your child currently receives free school meals, nothing will change this school year. Your child will continue to receive Free School Meals until the end of the 2025-2026 academic year.

What is changing from September 2026?

From September 2026, there will be two main changes:

- **More families will be able to access Free School Meals**

From June 2026, all families who receive Universal Credit will be able to apply for Free School Meals.

- **Eligibility for Free School Meals will be checked more often**

This will mean, some children may no longer qualify for Free School Meals or some children may qualify for the first time. Government and Local Authorities will monitor eligibility more closely at checkpoints across the year.

What about School Funding (Pupil Premium)?

Schools receive additional funding (The Pupil Premium) to help and support children who may need additional support. This funding is linked to free school meal eligibility, but not all free school meals will bring this funding in the future.

From September 2026:

There will be two categories of Free School Meals:

- Targeted Free School Meals, which continues to be based on the existing low income threshold (£7400), these students will still attract pupil premium funding.
- Expanded Free School Meals, which will apply to meals only, covering pupils who do not qualify for Targeted Free School Meals, but who are in households in receipt of Universal Credit.

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What you need to do:

Apply and ensure your details are accurate, correct and up-to-date.

To make sure your child gets the support they are entitled to, please:

- Apply for Free School Meals if you think you may be eligible

Even if your child already gets free school meals, you must confirm your details with the Local Authority. For further information please feel free to contact the Warwickshire Family Information Service by emailing freemeals@warwickshire.gov.uk or calling 0800 408 1558 (free phone).

Why this matters:

Free school meals:

- Help families save money
- Make sure children have a healthy meal at school each day

Registering also helps the school receive funding to:

- Provide extra support and provisions
- Improve learning for all pupils

Yours sincerely,



Mr Iain Green
Headteacher