



Whitstable & Seasalter Endowed (Church of England (Aided) Junior School

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Dear Parents and Carers

Changes to Free School Meal Entitlements

We are writing to let you know that as from September 2026, the Government will introduce substantial changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility. Under the new national criteria, all families in receipt of Universal Credit will qualify for free school meals, meaning that more students will become eligible.

Therefore, from September 2026, there will be two categories of benefit-related FSM.

1. Targeted Free School Meals:

This category continues to be based on the existing income threshold. Pupils will be eligible if their household

- Is in receipt of Universal Credit, and
- Has an annual household income of £7,400 or less.

Only students eligible for Targeted FSM will qualify for Pupil Premium funding and be eligible for extended rights home to school transport, subject to the eligibility criteria for extended rights travel.

2. Expanded Free School Meals:

This category applies to school meals only and covers pupils who:

- Live in households receiving Universal Credit, and
- Do not meet the income threshold for Targeted FSM (ie the annual household income is above £7,400).

Pupils eligible for Expanded FSM will be eligible to **free school meals** only.

We would like to encourage all families who fall into the categories above to apply for free school meals, which can be done via the link here: [Apply for Free School Meals](#).

If any families require help or support in completing the application, please speak to a member of staff in the school office or Miss Parker, who is available most mornings.

Kind regards.

Ellen Taylor
Headteacher

