

## IMPORTANT UPDATE: Free School Meals

The Department for Education (DfE) has recently updated its guidance on Free School Meals (FSM), with important changes coming into effect from September 2026. Please read the following carefully to understand how this may affect your child.

### **Current Protections coming to an end.**

Protections were introduced to support families and ensure children receive a free school meal regardless of any financial change in circumstances during the rollout of Universal Credit and this will remain in place until the end of the **2025/2026 school year**.

### **What if my child is currently receiving Free School Meals?**

As current protections are coming to an end, all children in receipt of Free School Meals will be rechecked against the new eligibility criteria. If you think your details may have changed since your last application, we recommend that you submit another form to your child's school or email us directly [Freeschoolmeals@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:Freeschoolmeals@enfield.gov.uk).

### **What's Changing – From September 2026**

Children will be checked against the eligibility criteria for the following 2 categories for Free School Meals.

<p><b>Targeted</b> Families who meet current eligibility criteria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children will receive a Free School Meal.</li> <li>• Children will receive HAF vouchers.</li> <li>• Schools will receive Pupil Premium Funding.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Expanded</b> Families who are in receipt of Universal Credit regardless of income.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children will receive a Free School Meal.</li> </ul>
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### **Need More Information?**

If you have any questions or would like further clarification, please email the Free School Meals Team: [freeschoolmeals@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@enfield.gov.uk).

We'll continue to share any further updates from the Department for Education as soon as they are available.