

8th July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Planned Government Increase in Free School Meal Allocation – September 2026

We are writing to inform you of an important update from the Department for Education regarding free school meals. The government announced in June 2025 that, starting from **September 2026**, there will be an increase in the number of students eligible to receive free school meals as part of a national initiative to support families and ensure all children have access to a nutritious meal each school day.

In preparation for this change, families who are **currently in receipt of Universal Credit** may be eligible to apply for free school meals ahead of the expanded provision. While the official rollout will begin in September 2026, we strongly encourage eligible families to apply during the upcoming academic year (2025–2026) to ensure a smooth transition and timely support.

If your child is already in receipt of free school meals, then you do not need to do anything as this will continue as long as you are still eligible under the current free school meal criteria of earning below £7,400 per annum.

How to Apply

You can apply online via Sheffield City Council at <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/schools-childcare/school/school-meals>.

If you believe your family may be eligible or if you have any questions about the application process, or require additional support please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Cartledge

Principal