



HILLINGDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning and Achieving Together

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Tuesday 7th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Changes to Free School Meals Eligibility from September 2026

We are writing to inform you about important changes being introduced by the Department for Education (DfE) regarding Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility. These changes will take effect at the start of the new academic year in **September 2026**.

What is Changing?

The government has officially expanded the criteria for Free School Meals. From September 2026, **all households in receipt of Universal Credit** are entitled to receive free school meals for their children.

Previously, families on Universal Credit only qualified if their annual household earnings were £7,400 or less. This earnings cap has now been removed for Universal Credit claimants.

Due to this expansion, the government is introducing two categories of FSM:

- **Targeted FSM:** This covers families receiving Universal Credit with an annual household income of £7,400 or less. Pupils in this category will also attract additional funding for the school (Pupil Premium) and access to other educational entitlements such as the Holiday Activities and Food program (HAF)..
- **Expanded FSM:** This is a new category for all other families receiving Universal Credit who have earnings exceeding £7,400 per year. Children in this category do not attract Pupil Premium funding.

Important Change: The End of "Transitional Protections"

Since 2018, the government has used a system called "transitional protections." This meant that once a child was granted Free School Meals, they kept that entitlement until the end of their current school phase, even if their family's financial circumstances improved. This means that **all families, including those currently receiving Pupil Premium/FSM, must reapply to continue their entitlement**. Under the new rules, if you do not submit a new application, your child's entitlement will lapse at the end of August 2026.

How to Apply:

We are advising all families receiving Universal Credit to apply, regardless of your household income and even if you are unsure whether you qualify. Even if your child brings a packed lunch to school, your eligibility could provide Pupil Premium Funding which helps to support children within school.

Please click the link to the LGfL FSM Eligibility checker (<https://fsm.lgfl.net/>) as soon as possible to check your eligibility. You will need to select Hillingdon Primary School and then enter your name, date of birth and National Insurance (or NASS) number and your child's name. The system will give you an instant decision and notify the school accordingly. **Please note a separate form will need to be completed for each child in your household.**

If you need any assistance filling out the form, please contact the school office on HillPrimary@hillingdonprimaryschool.org.uk and a member of staff will contact you.

Reminder: **all families, including those currently receiving Pupil Premium/FSM, must reapply to continue their entitlement.** Under the new rules, if you do not submit a new application, your child's entitlement will lapse at the end of August 2026.

Please contact Mrs Childs, Attendance and Welfare Officer, if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Sabrina Kelly
Co-Principal



Ms Samina Saidiya
Co-Principal