APPLICATION FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS
Academic Year 2026-27

For Targeted and Expanded Free School Meals

PLEASE DO NOT COMPLETE THIS FORM IF YOU HAVE NO RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS.
SEE NOTES OVERLEAF FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS

Please provide **all** details below so we can carry out an eligibility check:

Revised May 2026

	Parent/Carer Details	Your Contact Details
Please Underline	**Mr Mrs Ms Miss**	Address:
First Name		
Surname (Legal Surname, as used with Universal Credit)		
Date of Birth	...../...../.....	Postcode:
National Insurance No.		Tel. No:
Relationship to Child		Email:
Child's Address, if different from yours		
Where applicable, was your child eligible for FSM in their previous school?	Yes ❑ No ❑	

Child Details:

First Name	Surname	Date of Birth	Name of School	Date they Started at this School
		/ /		/ /
		/ /		/ /
		/ /		/ /
		/ /		/ /

Data Protection Act 2018

Information will be held and used in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018. If you would like to know more about how we use your personal information, please see our privacy notice which is available at Free school meals privacy notice | BCP (bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Full Legal Name (BLOCK CAPITALS) _____

FURTHER INFORMATION AND HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS – 2026/27

Further Information:

Children under the compulsory school age who are in full time, state-maintained nursery education (nurseries that are based at a Primary School) may also be able to get free school meals.

For applicants who have NRPF (No Recourse to Public Funds):

- You will need to complete our NRPF application form which is available on our website. Further information in regards to eligibility is also available on this page: Free school meals | BCP
- Alternatively, you can request a form over the phone or via e-mail.

Targeted and Expanded Free School Meals:

From the start of the 2026 to 2027 Academic Year, there will be 2 categories of eligibility for Free School Meals:

Eligible Targeted:

Eligibility Criteria:

- Children in households in receipt of Universal Credit, with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less
- Households in support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Households in receipt of income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Households that receive the guaranteed element of Pension Credit

These children will attract Pupil Premium and other disadvantage funding for their schools. Other education entitlements, such as the Holiday Activities and Food program (HAF) and the 'extended rights' element of School Transport Assistance will be based on the **Targeted** Free School Meals.

Eligible Expanded: this covers children who are in households receiving Universal Credit with annual household earnings exceeding £7,400. Children will be entitled to Free School Meals only.

How to Apply:

1. Complete the application form fully and provide **all** the information we have asked for so that we can carry out a benefit check. You **do not** have to send in evidence of the benefits you receive unless we ask you to.
2. Please email your completed form to: fsm@bcpcouncil.gov.uk.

When we receive your completed application:

- We will check your benefit entitlement with data held by the Department of Work and Pensions, the Home Office and HMRC (Revenue and Customs) through a central Eligibility Checking Engine (ECE). If we cannot confirm your entitlement though this process, we will write to you to ask you to provide up-to-date evidence of the benefits you receive.
- We will confirm your Free School Meals eligibility by email, and we will confirm whether you are eligible under Targeted or Expanded, and what level of support you are entitled to. If you have not provided an email address, we will write to the address that you have used on this application.
- We will inform your child's school of your child's Free School Meals eligibility.

If you have any queries, please feel to contact us on ☎ 01202 123222, or e-mail us using fsm@bcpcouncil.gov.uk.