



Hungerhill School
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8 June 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Important Changes to Free School Meals (FSM) – From September 2026

We are writing to inform you about important national changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility that will come into effect from September 2026. These changes, introduced by the Department for Education, will expand support to more families, and we strongly encourage all parents and carers to review their eligibility.

What is changing?

From September 2026, Free School Meals will be available under three categories:

Targeted Free School Meals

This will be available to children from households receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings of £7,400 or less.

Children eligible under this category will continue to receive free meals and will also attract additional funding (Pupil Premium) to support their education.

NEW – Expanded Free School Meals

This new category will be available to children from households receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings above £7,400.

Children will receive a free school meal each day, although this group will not attract Pupil Premium funding.

Universal Infant Free School Meals

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to receive a free school meal regardless of household income. However, the government intends to reduce the current Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) funding in anticipation of more parents applying for income-based free school meal eligibility. It is therefore very important that parents submit an application if they believe they may be eligible.

Important Information for Families

If your child currently receives **income-based Free School Meals**, this entitlement will come to an end under the new system, and you will need to reapply.



Hungerhill School is part of the Brighter Futures Learning Partnership Trust

Brighter Futures Learning Partnership Trust is an exempt charity regulated by the Secretary of State for Education. It is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (Company Number 07939747), whose registered office is at Hungerhill School, Hungerhill Lane, Edenthorpe, Doncaster, DN3 2JY

Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and already receives a free meal, it is still very important to register if you are eligible. This ensures the correct support and funding is allocated.

What this means for you

If your household receives Universal Credit, your child is likely to qualify for Free School Meals from September 2026.

Registering could:

- Save families up to approximately £505 per child per year
- Ensure your child receives a healthy, nutritious meal each school day
- Help the school access additional funding to support pupils' learning, wellbeing and opportunities

You still need to apply

Although eligibility is expanding, Free School Meals are not automatically provided. Parents and carers must apply to receive this support.

The application process is quick, confidential, and will not affect any other benefits you receive. You will be asked to provide:

- Your National Insurance number
- Details of your Universal Credit claim

How to apply

You can check eligibility and apply online via the Government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Applications are processed through Doncaster Council:

<https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/doitonline/free-school-meals>

If you are self-employed, a different application process may apply. Please contact Doncaster Council for further guidance.

Need help?

We understand that applying for support can sometimes feel daunting. If you would like help with your application or are unsure whether you qualify, please contact Doncaster Council, who will be able to provide advice and support.

Final Reminder

We strongly encourage all families receiving Universal Credit to:

- Check their eligibility
- Submit an application



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Registering for Free School Meals makes a real difference, both financially for families and in supporting your child's education.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mrs K Crawford
Headteacher



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