



MEDINA PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Monday 20th July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Changes to Free School Meals

We are writing to let you know about important changes to Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility that will take effect from September 2026.

From September 2026 students' FSM eligibility will be recorded under one of two categories:

Targeted FSM

- Universal Credit with household earnings **below** £7,400 per year
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit

These students will receive a free school meal and are eligible for the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. The child's school will also receive Pupil Premium funding.

Expanded FSM

- For families receiving Universal Credit with earnings **above** £7,400 per year.

These students will be **entitled to free meals only**. They will **NOT** receive pupil premium funding or be eligible for any other support that is based on targeted FSM students.

What this means for you

If your child currently receives FSM, their eligibility will be re-checked before the new school year. If Portsmouth County Council (PCC) do not hold the relevant information, you may be asked to provide updated information to confirm whether your child qualifies.

As re-checks are processed, if you have previously applied and PCC hold an up-to-date email address, you will receive an email notifying you whether you are entitled to FSM or not.

Households that no longer meet the criteria will not automatically continue to receive FSM, from the 1st September 2026.

Next steps

If you have previously applied for Free School Meals via the PCC website and your details remain the same, you do not need to do anything else at the moment.

If you have not previously applied, please apply by visiting:

<https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/services/schools-and-learning/schools/school-meals/>

Please note, once your child has their updated status this will last for a full school year. The status will only be changed if a re-check is requested by a parent/carers or school.

If your child (from Year 3 upwards) currently receives FSM, and after re-checking is not entitled to free meals from September, please ensure you have made arrangements for lunches upon their return in September.

Thank you for your attention to this important update and for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A McGarvey
Headteacher