



St Michael's Church School

Constantine Drive
Stanground South, Peterborough, PE2 8SZ
T: 01733 306778
Email: Office@stm.act-academytrust.org
www.stmichaels.act-academytrust.org

22 June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you of important changes to Free School Meals (FSM) which will come into effect from September 2026.

Our records show that your child is currently eligible to Free School Meals and therefore this may have an impact from September 2026.

Transitional protections for free school meals have been in effect since 1 April 2018. This has meant that pupils becoming eligible for free meals under the benefits-based criteria have retained their entitlement, even if their household circumstances have changed.

Transitional protection will now only apply until the end of the 2026 academic year – your child will continue to receive free school meals up to the end of this school year.

From September 2026 transitional protections for free school meals will end. Households must meet the FSM eligibility criteria from the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year to continue receiving provision.

From September 2026, all children from households receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to receive a free school meal, regardless of household income, as long as you apply.

There will now be two categories of Free School Meals:

Targeted FSM – for families receiving Universal Credit with household earnings below £7,400 per year. These pupils will continue to qualify pupils for Pupil Premium and HAF programs.

Expanded FSM – for families receiving Universal Credit with earnings above £7,400 per year. These pupils will be entitled to free meals only.

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Your current transitional protection arrangements for FSM will end in July 2026. This means eligibility for free school meals will end 31/8/2026. From June 2026, schools and local authorities will carry out annual eligibility checks for the next academic year– we will do this on your behalf to ensure you continue to receive FSM for the full academic year.

Please could you click on the link below and input some basic details which will allow us to check this for you.

[Government Changes to Free School Meal eligibility – Fill out form](#)

Even if you are no longer entitled to benefits or Universal Credit, please could you still complete the form so we have a clear picture for September 2026. School will still receive additional funding if your child has received FSM in the past 6 years.

If your child is in KS1, you will already be in receipt of Universal Infant Free School Meals however it is important that we capture your eligibility as this has a positive impact on our funding which is then used to support all children across all year groups.

If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Yours sincerely

Mrs H Daulton
Head of School

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