



PARENT INFORMATION

Expanding Free School Meals: What Parents Need To Know



Over half a million additional pupils will become eligible for Free School Meals under the new eligibility criteria. Free school meals are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, **one or more of the following benefits:**

- ✓ Universal Credit
- ✓ Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Households may also be entitled to a meal if they:

- ✓ Are in receipt of income-related employment and support allowance
- ✓ Receive the guarantee element of pension credit



When will these changes take effect?

The new eligibility will **take effect in September 2026**. Families receiving Universal Credit will be able to access free school meals starting from the 2026/27 school year.



How should I apply?

Please Visit:

www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/free-school-meals

Or By Scanning This QR Code.

Or Contact:

Tel: 0191 561 1417

E-mail: freeschoolmeals@togetherforchildren.org.uk

