



Free School Meals – Important Changes for September 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

We would like to inform you of an important change to the way Free School Meals (FSM) applications are managed by Calderdale Council. Previously, once a family had successfully applied for, and been confirmed as eligible for Free School Meals, their entitlement would automatically roll over. However, from September 2026, all parents and carers must submit a new application each year to confirm their eligibility, regardless of whether they have previously received Free School Meals.

This means that all families currently receiving Free School Meals must reapply before the start of the Autumn Term in September 2026.

There is also some positive news; Calderdale Council has widened eligibility criteria so that all families receiving Universal Credit will now be eligible for Free School Meals, regardless of household income. If you receive Universal Credit, we strongly encourage you to submit an application even if you have not previously qualified.

To reapply, please use the following link:

- <https://new.calderdale.gov.uk/dio/apply-free-school-meals>

A reminder will be sent before the summer holidays; however, we encourage families to apply as soon as possible. Applying early will help ensure that applications are processed, and eligibility is confirmed before the start of the new school term in September.

If you think you may be eligible, please take a few minutes to complete an application. In addition to providing free meals for your child, successful applications may also help the school access additional funding to support pupils.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Yours sincerely,

Phillip Hannah
Headteacher, The Whitley AP Academy