



Crosshall Junior School
Ambition • Resilience • Kindness

FREE

SCHOOL MEALS



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CHILDREN IN ALL YEAR GROUPS

★ SEPTEMBER 2026 CHANGES ★



WHAT STAYS THE SAME UNTIL AUGUST 2026?

If your child has been eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) at any time between April 2018 and August 2026, they will continue to receive free school meals until:

**31 AUGUST
2026**



This protection was introduced to support families during the rollout of Universal Credit and will remain in place until the end of August 2026.



If your child only received Universal Infant Free School Meals in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, we recommend you apply after 1 August 2026 to check eligibility under the new rules.



WHAT'S CHANGING FROM SEPTEMBER 2026?



Transitional protection ends 31-8-2026.

Every family will have to be re-checked under the new criteria for FSM entitlement.



From September 2026 onwards, to qualify for Free School Meals your household must be receiving Universal Credit to be entitled, regardless of household income.

TWO TYPES OF FREE SCHOOL MEALS

1

TARGETED FREE SCHOOL MEALS

- ✓ Household income below £7,400.
- ✓ Child receives a free meal.
- ✓ School receives additional Pupil Premium funding.



2

EXPANDED FREE SCHOOL MEALS

- ✓ Household receives Universal Credit but income is above £7,400.
- ✓ Child still receives a free meal.
- ✗ School does not receive additional Pupil Premium funding.



WHAT DO PARENTS NEED TO DO?

FROM 1 AUGUST 2026

Apply online for Free School Meals:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

The Education Welfare Benefits (EWB) Team will:



Check eligibility



Inform the school



Confirm entitlement for the school year

Any applications made before
1 AUGUST 2026
will still be processed under the current DfE guidelines and thresholds.



ANNUAL CHECKS

Your child's entitlement will be reviewed at the start of each school year.

**NEED
HELP?**

Education Welfare Benefits Service (FSM Team)

✉ ewb.fsm@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

☎ 01223 703200

🌐 www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals



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