Pope Francis
Catholic Multi Academy Trust
Uplifting Hearts, Inspiring Minds

Dear Parent/Carer

Changes to Free School Meal Entitlement – September 2026

W would like to inform you of important changes to Free School Meal (FSM) entitlement from September 2026.

From this date, all students from households in receipt of Universal Credit will be eligible for Free School Meals, regardless of household income. Previously, eligibility was limited to households with a combined annual income of £7,400 or less.

This change is expected to provide significant financial support for families. Households receiving Universal Credit could save up to £570 per year per child on school meals. For families with more than one child, this could make a substantial difference to household budgets.

How to apply

Please note that entitlement to Free School Meals is **NOT** applied automatically. **Parents and carers must submit an application through their local authority (LA).** Most Local authorities provide an online application form.

You can apply using the links below:

- Sefton:
  Application For Free School Meals - Notes to Read - MyServices

- Knowsley:
  https://parentportal.knowsley.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/parents/travel-and-free-school-meals

Once the relevant local authority has confirmed your child's eligibility, we will update our records, and your child will begin receiving Free School Meals.

Ongoing eligibility

You will not need to reapply each year. However, eligibility will be checked periodically. If your circumstances change and you are no longer entitled, your child will no longer receive Free School Meals.

If your child is currently receiving Free School Meals and you still meet the criteria, you do not need to reapply.

If you believe you may be eligible, we strongly encourage you to apply.

Yours sincerely,

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