THE LONDON BOROUGH

Admissions and Transport – Free School Meals
Children, Education and Families
Bromley Civic Centre, Churchill Court, 2 Westmoreland Road, Bromley, BR1 1AS

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1 June 2026

Free School Meals are changing from September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to inform you about important changes to Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility, which will take effect from September 2026.

What's changing?
Under new national rules, all families receiving Universal Credit will qualify for Free School Meals. This means more children will become eligible.

From 1 September 2026, there will be two categories of FSM eligibility:

1. Targeted Eligibility
- Applies to children in households receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings of **£7,400 or less**.
- Pupils in this category will:
  - Qualify for Free School Meals
  - Enable schools to receive additional Pupil Premium funding
  - Be considered for other support, such as extended school travel assistance

2. Expanded Eligibility
- Applies to children in households receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings **above £7,400**.
- Pupils in this category will:
  - Qualify for Free School Meals only
  - Not attract Pupil Premium funding

Important information
- Any existing transitional protection for Free School Meals will end in July 2026.
- The Department for Education (DfE) have advised that all children must be assessed under the new criteria before the start of the new academic year.

What you need to do
To make sure your child's eligibility is assessed in time, we strongly encourage you to complete and submit a short application form, using the link provided by your child's school, for each child as soon as possible

The Council will use this information to assess eligibility and share the outcome with you and your child's school.

Key deadline

- **Forms submitted by 17 July 2026** are guaranteed to be processed before the new school year
- Applications received after this date will still be assessed, but outcomes may not be available before September

Thank you for your cooperation in helping ensure all children who are entitled to Free School Meals receive them.

If you have any questions, please contact: **fsm@bromley.gov.uk**

Yours faithfully
Admissions and Transport – Free School Meals
London Borough of Bromley