



DREAM BIG! BELIEVE, ASPIRE, ACHIEVE

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Dear Parent/Carer,

July 2026

We are writing to let you know about important changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility announced by the Department for Education. These changes mean that many more families at Carrwood Primary School will be entitled to receive support starting September 2026.

Free school meals provide children with a nutritious meal during the school day, playing an important role in supporting their health, wellbeing, and learning.

What are the changes?

There will now be two categories of benefits-related free school meals:

- Targeted FSM: This applies to pupils from households receiving Universal Credit with an annual earned household income of £7,400 or less.
- Expanded FSM: This is a brand-new category for pupils in households that receive Universal Credit but have an annual earned income above £7,400.

Who will benefit from Expanded FSM?

From September 2026, the previous £7,400 income threshold is being removed for general eligibility. This means all children in households receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to a free school meal each day.

What if your household income is £7,400 or less?

Families qualifying for Targeted FSM (income of £7,400 or less) receive additional support beyond a free school meal. Depending on the school, this can include funding towards educational visits, school uniforms, milk, and other school-provided support.

Does this affect Universal Infant Free School Meals?

No. All children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 will continue to receive Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) automatically.

Important Note: Even if your child already receives UIFSM, we highly recommend checking whether you qualify under the new FSM criteria. Qualifying under these categories allows our school to access crucial additional funding to support your child's learning.



When do these changes take effect?

The new criteria will come into effect on 1 September 2026. Eligibility is confirmed for one academic year at a time and will be reviewed annually.

How to apply:

- If your child already receives benefits-related FSM (not just the standard Infant Free Meals), you do not need to do anything. Bradford Council has advised that they will automatically identify eligible families and update our school records before the autumn term starts.
- If your child currently receives benefits-related FSM but your circumstances have changed since you first applied, you may need to check if you are still eligible.
- If you wish to apply under the new Expanded FSM criteria, you can do so directly through the Bradford Council website, just search Free School Meals.

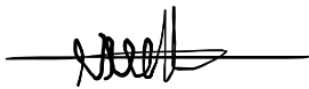
Bradford Council Online Portal Issue

Please note that Bradford Council has advised schools that there is currently a temporary issue with their online eligibility checker. They expect this to be resolved by the end of July 2026. If the online application form is not yet active, please check their webpage regularly for updates.

You will be able to apply here: [Bradford Council Free School Meals](#).

If you have any questions or need support with your application, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Malt', written over a horizontal line.

Miss N Malt
Headteacher