Norfolk County Council

Free School Meals is changing: here's what you need to know

Free School Meals (FSM) is changing from September 2026. Please read each point, as this may affect your eligibility.

1. More families are becoming eligible

All households on Universal Credit are becoming eligible, with two tiers of entitlement:

- **Targeted:** if you earn under £7,400 a year, your children will be entitled to FSM and extra support for their school
- **Expanded:** if you earn above £7,400: your children will be entitled to FSM only

All households who receive other qualifying benefits will also receive Targeted FSM. A full list of qualifying benefits is available on our webpage: www.norfolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals You will only need to apply once per child.

2. Protected entitlements are ending

Children who were previously assessed as eligible for FSM had their eligibility protected. This meant they could not lose their FSM, even if the household was no longer eligible. These protections are ending in September, meaning some children may lose their existing eligibility. We will contact you to confirm your eligibility before the end of the summer holiday.

3. Annual eligibility rechecks

We will recheck the eligibility of all children on an annual basis. **Parents already in receipt of benefits related FSM do not need to reapply**, as your eligibility will be rechecked and confirmation of this will be sent to you before the end of the summer holiday.

4. No Recourse to Public Funds

Due to these changes, **all households that qualify as No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and receive FSM must reapply** or you will lose your entitlement.

Questions

If you have any questions following receipt of your updated eligibility, please contact us at: **fsm@norfolk.gov.uk**

Applying online

www.norfolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

The easiest and quickest way to apply is online via Norfolk Education Online (NEO). Scan the code or visit the link and click 'Apply for free school meals'.

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