

1 July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

From the start of the 2026/27 academic year, the Department for Education will remove all transitional protections for Free School Meals (FSM). At the same time, eligibility criteria will be expanded to include children from all households receiving Universal Credit. From September 2026, families will need to meet the updated criteria for their child or young person to continue receiving Free School Meals. Please note that no changes to Free School Meals will take effect before September.

Eligibility Recheck

In line with these changes, the Local Authority will review all current FSM claims before the start of the new academic year, and annually thereafter. If you remain eligible, your school will be informed, and your child will continue to receive Free School Meals.

Under the new criteria, FSM eligibility will fall into two categories:

- Targeted – for pupils in households receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings of £7,400 or less. This provides free school meals and additional benefits for both the pupil and the school.
- Expanded – for pupils in households receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings above £7,400. This provides free school meals only.

The KLB School daily allowance for FSM students is £3.30 which enables them to purchase a variety of food within that budget.

If your child is no longer eligible following the review, you will be notified via the Citizen Portal. Please check the portal regularly to ensure you receive important updates.

New Claims

We encourage any parents who believe they may now be eligible, but who have not previously applied, to visit our website and submit an application. Free school meals can save time preparing lunches and provide children with a healthy and varied meal each day. It also enables them to be identified as one of our equity students ensuring we are supporting them as best we can to participate fully in their school experience and to progress to the best of their ability.

The online application process is quick, confidential, and provides an immediate eligibility check.

Please use the link below to apply.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/> or phone 01452 425390.

Previously Rejected Applications

As the eligibility criteria have expanded, some families who were previously unsuccessful may now qualify. We encourage you to reapply.

New Year 7 Students joining in September 2026

For any families who received free school meals from a South Gloucestershire primary school, please phone 01452 425390 and explain your child is now at KLB and will need to receive FSM from Gloucestershire.

Holiday vouchers

The Household Support fund is no longer providing FSM holiday vouchers. Instead, we are advised that families can access support from the Holidays Activities and Food Programme (HAF) which hosts activities throughout the school holidays in a variety of locations that you can sign your child up to and as part of that activity they will also offer meals to those children attending.

Families who live in **Gloucestershire** should sign up using this link:

[Holiday Activities and Food Programme \(HAF\)](#)

If you need support, please ring 01452 427960 or email HAFParentEnquiries@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Families in **South Gloucestershire** should sign up using this link:

[South Glos LIFE | School holiday activities and food programme.](#)

If you need support, please email HAF@southglos.gov.uk

Best wishes



Chloe Landeg
Equity Lead

