



9th July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Changes to Free School Meals from September 2026

We are writing to let you know about an important change to Free School Meals (FSM). Since 2018, some children have continued to receive free school meals through a government protection scheme, even if their family no longer met the eligibility criteria. This protection was introduced during the rollout of Universal Credit. The protection scheme will end in July 2026.

What does this mean for your family?

Many families who receive Universal Credit will still be eligible for free school meals. To make sure your child receives any support they are entitled to, we encourage you to register with the Derbyshire Free School Meals Team.

Once your details are registered, they will be checked regularly, and if your child becomes eligible, the school will be notified automatically and we will be able to provide free school meals.

Why should I register?

Registering is:

- Quick and easy and free to do
- Helps ensure your child receives free school meals if they qualify

Even if your child usually brings a packed lunch or you think you may not qualify, it is still worth registering.

How to register with DCC

Please visit Derbyshire County Council website at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

If your child is confirmed as eligible for free school meals before July 2026, they will continue to receive them until July 2027.

Thank you for taking the time to check whether your family may be entitled to this support. If you have any queries please contact info@glossopdaleschool.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Ms L Geary
Assistant Headteacher
Inclusion, Academic Progress and Attainment