



June 2026

Dear Family

### Free School Meal Provision Is Changing

We are writing to make you aware that **Free School Meals (FSM)** provision is changing from September 2026. From September 2026, FSM will be divided into two categories: **Targeted Free School Meals and Expanded Free Meals.**

#### Targeted Free School Meals

- Eligibility Criteria – Households receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings of no more than £7,400. This is the same as the current eligibility criteria.
- What does this entitle your child to?
  - A school meal with the value of £2.65 per day
  - A place on the Holidays and Activities Food Programme (HAF)
  - Free school to home travel. Subject to meeting the other eligibility criteria

#### Expanded Free School Meals

- Eligibility Criteria – Households receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings of **more than** £7,400.
- What does this entitle your child to?
  - A school meal with the value of £2.65 per day

Free School Meals are not only a valuable support for families, but they also provide wider benefits to your child's school in the form of additional funding that helps us to support learning, wellbeing and enrichment opportunities.

#### Why it matters

Even if your child does not always take a school meal, it is important that we know if your family is eligible. That's because:

- **The school receives additional funding** called the *Pupil Premium*, which we use to provide extra support in and out of the classroom.
- **Our payment systems are electronic and discreet**, so no child is ever identified as receiving Free School Meals.

#### How can you check your eligibility?

It's quick and easy to check if you're eligible and apply. Click this link and fill in your details - [LGfL Free School Meals Eligibility Checker | LGfL](#)

#### What should you do if you meet a requirement, you didn't before?

Apply to your Local Authority, please click this link or request a paper copy of the application form at your school's reception. <https://shirelandcat.org.uk/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

If you would prefer to speak to someone, or you have any questions about the process, please do not hesitate to **contact the school office** and we will be happy to help.

Thank you for taking the time to check, your application could make a real difference to your child and to the wider school community.

Yours sincerely

Mr T Daly  
Principal