



Dear Parents and Carers,

Changes to Free School Meals (FSM) – September 2026

We are writing to let you know about important changes to Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility that may mean more families are now entitled to support.

From the start of the 2026–27 academic year, the Government has updated the criteria so that ***all children in households receiving Universal Credit may be eligible for a free school meal***. Previously, there was an income limit in place, but this is now being removed.

This means that some families who were not previously eligible may now qualify.

How to apply

If you think your child may be eligible, we strongly encourage you to apply as soon as possible.

You can apply online using the Coventry City Council website:

[Apply for Free School Meals](#)

The process is quick and confidential. If you are eligible, your child will receive a free school meal and the school may also receive additional funding to support their learning.

Why it's important to apply

Even if your child already brings a packed lunch or chooses not to take a meal, registering for FSM is still very important. It helps the school to:

- Access additional funding to support your child
- Provide further support with learning, resources and enrichment opportunities
- Ensure all eligible families receive the support they are entitled to

Need help?

If you would like support with completing the application or are unsure whether you may qualify,



STOKE PARK
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please contact our **Family Support Centre** on 02476 450215 Ext 227 or email – jdeely@stokepark.coventry.sch.uk We are happy to help and can assist you with the application process.

We would encourage all families to review the new guidance ([Free school meals: guidance for local authorities, local-authority-maintained schools, academies and free schools - GOV.UK](#)) and apply if you think you may now be eligible.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Deely

Family Support Centre
Stoke Park School

🔍 www.stokepark.coventry.sch.uk
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☎ 024 7645 0215

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