



Beeston Primary School

Town Street, Leeds, LS11 8PN

"Engage, Enjoy, Enrich, Excel"

Wednesday 17th June 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing with regards to changes in Free School Meal (FSM) entitlement. As you may be aware, the Department for Education (DfE) have recently announced eligibility changes, which mean that more families would qualify for a free meal in school.

From September 2026, eligibility is being expanded so that **all households who are in receipt of Universal Credit will qualify for a free school meal**, regardless of the £7,400 Income Cap. Households will qualify under the entitlement changes if they receive Universal Credit; however, parents/carers **must apply** so that their eligibility can be verified and added in school.

In order to assist the application process, we are sending out a link to a Microsoft Form. We ask that **all** parents/carers complete the form if you believe that you may be eligible, or if you are unsure. Upon receipt of a completed form, we will forward your details to the council on your behalf.

Excluding Universal Free School Meal (UFSM) entitlement, FSM eligibility from September falls into one of the following categories:

- Targeted FSM – qualifying due to being in receipt of the following benefits:
 - Income Support
 - Income based Job Seeker's Allowance
 - Income based Employment and Support Allowance
 - Child Tax Credit with an annual income of less than £16,190
 - The Guaranteed element of the State Pension Credit
 - The Guaranteed element of Pension Credit
 - Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
 - Universal Credit with an annual income of less than £7,400
- Expanded FSM – qualifying for a free school meal due to being in receipt of Universal Credit, regardless of the £7,400 income cap that is in place for targeted FSM eligibility.

In addition to the expansion of the meal eligibility, the Government have also confirmed that any transitional protection will end. Transitional protection may have been in place for some families where FSM entitlement was still in place, even if parent/carer income had changed. Leeds City Council have advised that any transitional protection will end on 7th September 2026.

Please do not hesitate to contact school if there are any queries,

Kind regards,

Beeston Primary School

Headteacher: Mr. N. Edensor

Tel. No: 0113 2716978

Email: mainoffice@beestonprimary.org

www.beestonprimaryschool.co.uk