



## Blackbrook School

Aspiration Fairness Kindness Responsibility Teamwork

Headteacher: Mr Daniel Seviour BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026

### **Changes to National Criteria for Free School Meals**

Dear Parents,

We would like to inform you of an important change to the national criteria for Free School Meals (FSM), which will take effect from **September 2026**.

From the start of the 2026/27 academic year, the eligibility threshold will be widened. This means that **all families in receipt of Universal Credit will now be entitled to apply for Free School Meals**, regardless of household income.

As a result, many more children may now be eligible for this support.

Free School Meals not only provide a daily meal for your child, but they can also enable the school to access additional funding to enhance teaching, learning and wider opportunities for pupils.

#### **What we need you to do**

If you do not currently receive Free School Meals, we strongly encourage you to complete an application using the link below:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/school-life/free-school-meals/>

If you already receive free school meals, you do not need to do anything.

Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and already receives a universal free meal, we would still ask you to apply now, as this may provide additional funding for the school.

The form only takes a couple of minutes to complete. If you have any difficulties with this, please let us know.

**Even if you do not want the free meals, please complete the application anyway so that we can claim the associated funding to support your child.**

Thank you for your support.

Best Wishes,

The School Office