Holy Family

Roman Catholic and
Church of England College
specialising in Mathematics and Computing

Mrs K A Ames BSc Hons, NPQH

16th July 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

RE: Changes to Free School Meal Eligibility from September 2026

We recently wrote to you regarding changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility from September 2026. Rochdale Borough Council has provided further information, and we would like to update you.

From September 2026, there will be changes to who can receive free school meals:

- Any family who receives Universal Credit, regardless of the amount they receive, may now qualify for free school meals.
- The temporary protection arrangements, which allowed children to continue to receive free school meals without rechecking eligibility, will end at the end of the 2025-2026 school year, As a result, some children who currently receive free school meals may no longer be eligible from September 2026.

If your child currently receives Free School Meals:
You do not need to do anything. Rochdale Council will automatically review your eligibility during the summer holidays and will contact you directly if your child is no longer eligible. The school will be notified and your child will need to purchase meals in September or bring a packed lunch.

If you think you may now be eligible for Free School Meals:
If your child does not currently receive Free School Meals, but you think they may now qualify, we strongly encourage you to submit an application before the start of the new academic year.

Applications can now be made online via Rochdale Borough Council:

Apply for Free School Meals: https://www.rochdale.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

You will usually receive the outcome of your application immediately.

If your application is successful, your child will receive free school meals from the start of the Autumn Term.

Applications approved between 1 June and 1 October 2026 will remain valid for the whole of the 2026/27 academic year (unless a new application is submitted and circumstances have changed).

We encourage all families who receive Universal Credit, or who believe their circumstances may make them eligible, to submit an application. Even if you are unsure whether you qualify, it is worth applying.

If you have any questions, please contact the school office and we will be happy to help.
Yours sincerely,

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Mrs K Ames
Headteacher

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