Holy Family
RC and CE College

Specialising in Mathematics and Computing

Headteacher – Mrs K Ames BSc (Hons), NPQH

30th April 2026

Changes to Free School Meals – Important Information

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to let you know about some upcoming national changes to Free School Meals (FSM) that may affect your child.

The government has announced that, from September 2026, eligibility for free school meals will be expanded to include all families receiving Universal Credit. This means more children will be able to access free school meals in the future.

At the same time, the current transitional protection arrangements – which have allowed some pupils to continue receiving free school meals even if family circumstances have changed – are due to come to an end in August 2026.

What this means in practice:

- Some families who are not currently eligible may become eligible from September 2026
- Some pupils who are currently receiving free school meals under transitional protection may no longer be entitled after August 2026, depending on eligibility under the new rules

We understand that this may feel unclear at the moment. This is because schools are still waiting for full detailed guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on how these changes will be implemented.

What you need to do now:

- There is no immediate action required
- Your child's current free school meal status will not change before August 2026

Further information:
You may find the following websites helpful:
Government guidance: https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals
Local authority information: https://www.rochdale.gov.uk/benefits-money/free-school-meals/2

These pages explain current eligibility and how to apply. Please note that further details about the upcoming changes from September 2026 will be shared by the school once confirmed.

We appreciate your patience while these national changes are finalised. If you have any immediate questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Ames
Headteacher