



Altrincham Grammar School for Boys

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Head Master: Mr G A Wright M.A. (Hons) FRSA

23rd June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Government is changing the rules for Free School Meals (FSM) from September 2026.

Before, if your child received free school meals, they could keep them, even if your situation changed. This was called 'transitional protection'. From September 2026, this protection will end and you will need to meet the FSM eligibility criteria to continue receiving Free School Meals.

At the same time, eligibility for Free School Meals is being expanded so that more pupils are able to access this provision, and from September 2026 all children living in households that receive Universal Credit will be entitled to Free School Meals, regardless of earnings.

This means all families must now meet the new rules to get Free School Meals.

If you receive any of the following you will need to take action to continue with FSM or start receiving FSM:

- Universal Credit
- or
- Income Support
- Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Child Tax Credit (without Working Tax Credit)
- Working Tax Credit (run-on)
- Asylum support

Option 1:

Your child is not currently receiving Free School Meals, but you receive Universal Credit or any of the other qualifying benefits.

You should now make an application for Free School Meals via the Trafford Council link [Online FSM Application](https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-trafford) (<https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-trafford>). If you live in a different local authority, please use their appropriate form.

Option 2:

Your child is currently receiving Free School Meals.

You don't have to reapply if your son already qualifies for Free School Meals as this will automatically be checked by the OFSM system. This will happen once a year, prior to the next academic year.

Please note, under the new rules your child may no longer be eligible if:

- They currently receive Free School Meals only because of 'transitional protection'; and
- Your household no longer receives Universal Credit or any other qualifying benefit.

Information needed to apply for FSM:

To complete an application, you will need to provide the following: your own name and date of birth; contact details; National Insurance Number or National Asylum Seekers Number; child's name and date of birth; school your child is attending/will attend from September 2026.

If you wish to discuss this further or need assistance, please contact Mr Hobson-Williams, Head of Inclusion, to discuss further at rhobson-williams@agsb.co.uk.

If you are currently in receipt of Universal Credit or any of the other qualifying benefits, you should apply for Free School Meals. Even if your child does not wish to use the free school meal, we recommend that FSM is applied for as we need this information to best serve our student body and the child can take the other advantages offered at AGSB for pupils who are in receipt of the Free School Meals payment (FSM children from families earning up to £7,400 per year will also be in receipt of the PP grant and therefore have access to the many benefits in the published plan).

Please apply by Monday 13 July to ensure continuity of FSM if eligible. You may apply after this date and at any time in the academic year. You must notify us via the application system of any changes in your circumstances that could affect eligibility.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



R Hobson-Williams
Head of Inclusion