Free School Meals Information (FSM) Year 6 to 7

From September 2026, there are important government changes to FSM. All children in households claiming **Universal Credit** will be eligible for free school meals subject to checks and applications.

Two types of Free School Meals

- **<u>Targeted FSM</u> - for households which meet any of the below:**
- **on Universal Credit with earned annual income of £7400 or below after tax**
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Households may also be entitled if they:

- Receive Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Receive the guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Have no recourse to Public Funds

- **<u>Expanded FSM</u> – for households on Universal Credit with an earned annual income above £7400 after tax**

What you need to do

If your child currently has FSM in Year 6, you will need to complete this 'change of details' form when they leave primary school or as early as possible in August to confirm the change of school from primary to secondary to aid the checking process. If you have had a recent change of address, please also update.



https://www.coventry.gov.uk/benefits-1/free-school-meals/4

If your child does not currently receive FSM and your household receives Universal Credit, Coventry City Council use a process called **auto-enrolment** in which they check the benefits database to see who is eligible. They should write to you directly in the last two weeks of August about automatically enrolling your child for free school meals. This auto-enrolment process should pick up anyone eligible for the new Expanded FSM.

Even if you prefer to give your child a packed lunch, registering for FSM

- Brings extra funding in to school to support learning and wellbeing
- Gives your child access to a free, healthy meal every day
- Helps us provide the best possible support for all children

Need help?

We are here to support you. Contact:

- Coventry City Council Discretionary Grants and Awards Team 02476 833773 (Mon-Friday 11:00-13:00) or dgateam@coventry.gov.uk

How does it work once FSM eligibility has been checked and confirmed?

At Caludon Castle School, we operate a Cashless Catering service. An allowance from school will be added to your child's account daily. While any unused money per day will roll over to the next, at the end of the week the balance is returned to zero before the next Monday's allowance is added.