



NEWLANDS GIRLS' SCHOOL
COURAGE COMMITMENT COMPASSION

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Dear Parents and Carers

Important update: widening Free School Meals [FSM] eligibility

We are writing to let you know about some important changes to **Free School Meals [FSM]**.

What is changing?

From the start of the **2026–27 academic year**, the Government has:

- **Expanded the eligibility criteria** for Free School Meals, meaning more families will qualify.
- Ended the rolling eligibility (transitional protection) that had been in place for a number of years, meaning that **families now must re-apply to continue receiving Free School Meals**.

Please note, the method of application has *not* changed – see overleaf.

Understanding the new eligibility results

There will be two types of eligibility from September 2026 onwards, and when you receive the result of your application you will be notified which type your child will have:

- **'Targeted' eligibility** – this applies to families on lower incomes, i.e. those who meet the existing criteria (currently, those in receipt of certain benefits and, if receiving Universal Credit, income of up to £7,400 per year), and who are eligible for additional support if required, e.g. subsidies for school trips
- **'Expanded' eligibility** – this applies to families who will **qualify under the wider (new) criteria** (including those receiving Universal Credit, irrespective of income)

Both groups will receive **Free School Meals**.

What this means for you

- **All families currently receiving Free School Meals must re-apply** to renew eligibility for next academic year, 2026/27. (Please note all students currently receiving free school meals will continue to receive them until the end of this term, irrespective of the result of your new claim).
- **Families who did not previously qualify for free school meals may be eligible from next academic year**, so we strongly encourage you to **check, by making an application as soon as possible**. You will receive the

result of your application straight away and if eligible, then from the start of September 2026 your daughter will receive a daily allowance (currently £2.75) to their iPayimpact School Meal fund, to offset the cost of food purchased at the canteen. (In this way the system is designed to be completely anonymous for your daughter, and your daughter is not restricted in what she chooses to buy at the canteen).

Applying is quick and simple, and can make a real difference. In addition to free school meals for your child, eligibility can also help the school access extra funding to support your child.

Please apply (or re-apply) at <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/rbwm/>

You will need your National Insurance number.

You will need to make a separate application for each child. Families of sixth formers can apply.

Only applications received from 1 June 2026 onwards will be assessed under the new criteria, so even if you have made a recent application, please do apply again to have your application assessed under the wider eligibility criteria.

Please note: if you currently receive FSM, your daily allowance will stop from next academic year if you do not re-apply, so please complete your application at the above link as soon as possible.

Need help?

If you need help applying, or are unsure of the result of your application, or simply have further questions, please contact the finance office by emailing finance@newlandsgirls.co.uk or calling 01628 625068 –we will be happy to help in confidence.

We strongly encourage all families to check their eligibility, even if you're not sure. Under the new criteria, you may now qualify.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards



Ms A Lane
Bursar

