

July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Government Changes to Free School Meals Entitlement

From the start of the academic year 2026 - 2027, the eligibility criteria and process for Free School Meals will change in line with guidance from the Government.

The changes are as follows:-

- **Targeted Free School Meals** – This category continues to be based on the existing threshold, covering students who are in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less. This may attract other eligibilities, such as School Transport and Pupil Premium.
- **Expanded Free School Meals** – This is a new category covering students who do not qualify for Targeted Free School Meals, but who are in households receiving Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or more. Unfortunately, this does not attract any other eligibilities.

To check whether your child is eligible, please see the Derby City Council Free School Meals website for more information: [Free school meals - Derby City Council](#)

We encourage all parents/carers who think they may qualify to apply for Free School Meals to Derby City Council.

Does my child have to eat the free school meals? Pupils who are registered for Free School Meals **do not** have to eat them. If your child is eligible but you want your child to have packed lunches, we would still encourage you to register because, depending on the type of entitlement your child receives, the school may receive extra funding (e.g. Pupil Premium) which can support your child in other ways.

Free School Meal Application Link:

https://myaccount.derby.gov.uk/en/service/Apply_for_Free_School_Meals

IMPORTANT STEP: For all new applications, in the notes section of the online application form, please add the following wording:

If your child is a current student at Littleover Community School: **Current Student Free School Meal application for Littleover Community School.**

If your child is due to enrol at Littleover Community School: **New Student Free School Meal application for Littleover Community School.**

Yours sincerely

Littleover Community School