



MAIDEN ERLEGH

SCHOOL

Headteacher: Steve Jump
BA Ed (Hons), NPQH

- Silverdale Road, Earley, Reading, RG6 7HS
- 0118 926 2467
- MESoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org
- www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk
- @MaidenErleghSch

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Dear Parent/Guardian

Free School Meal Eligibility & Transitional Protection

I am writing to update you regarding the Free School Meal transitional protection that is due to end on 31 March 2025. Since 1 April 2018, all existing free school meals students have continued to receive free school meals whilst Universal Credit is rolled out to replace legacy benefits. This applies even if a household's earnings rise above the threshold during that time. Therefore, if a student became eligible for free school meals between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2025, they will stay eligible until they leave school – even if the total earnings for the household change.

As this transitional protection is due to end on 31 March 2025, we want to ensure that as many students can enjoy the benefits of this protection before it ends. Therefore, we are encouraging all parents who fit the eligibility criteria to apply to check if their child is eligible for FSM before 31 March 2025. Applying is quick, easy, confidential and does not affect any of your current benefits or employment. To check eligibility and apply please click [here](#). If your child is currently eligible for Free School Meals, you do not need to reapply.

More information is available on the Wokingham Borough Council website [here](#) and the Maiden Erlegh School website [here](#).

Even if your child prefers packed lunches, applying for FSM can benefit both your family and the school:

For Your Child

- A healthy, balanced meal every school day to keep them energized and focused.
- Better concentration and improved academic performance.
- A sense of inclusion and well-being at school.

For You as a Parent/Guardian

- Save money on school meals.
- Peace of mind knowing your child has a nutritious meal each day.
- Potential access to extra support available for FSM-eligible families.

For School

- Extra Pupil Premium funding to provide better resources, support, and extracurricular activities.
- A stronger school community where all children can thrive.

Should you have any questions, please contact mesoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org stating your child's full name and tutor group.

Yours sincerely
Miss S Young



Aim High



Be Inclusive



Work Together