



Free School Meal (FSM) Eligibility Check – Consent Needed

We are asking for your consent to complete a Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility check for your child. Even if you believe you may not qualify, please still provide your details, as this could help the school access valuable additional funding.

Completing the FSM check helps us identify whether your child qualifies for Free School Meals and enables the school to receive Pupil Premium funding, which supports learning, wellbeing and enrichment activities.

Eligibility

Free school meals are available to children in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Are in receipt of income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Receive the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Meet criteria set out for families with no recourse to public funds

From 1 September 2026, all children in households receiving Universal Credit will receive free school meals. There will be two categories:

1. **Universal Credit Targeted FSM Eligibility**, which continues to be based on the existing threshold, covering pupils who are in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less. In addition to receiving free meals, children eligible for targeted FSM will attract pupil premium and other funding for their schools. Other education entitlements that have previously been linked to eligibility for FSM, such as the Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) and the 'extended rights' element of school travel assistance, will also continue to be based on targeted FSM.
2. **Universal Credit Expanded FSM Eligibility**, a new category covering pupils who do not qualify for targeted FSM, but who are in households receiving Universal Credit with annual household earnings exceeding £7,400 will be entitled to expanded FSM (meals only).

Providing consent on the MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) app

To allow us to complete the eligibility check, please:

1. Log in to MCAS
2. Select the **Admissions Form Tab**
3. Go to **View Student Details** → **Other Details** and tick the FSM consent box, confirming you have provided consent
4. Go to **View Your Personal Details** → **Other Details** and enter:
 - Your Date of Birth
 - Your National Insurance (NI) number or National Asylum Support Service (NASS) number

Your information will be used securely by Slough Borough Council who manage the FSM Eligibility Checking Service Level Agreement in School solely to confirm eligibility.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact your child's school.

