St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

Learning and growing together in God's love

Headteacher: Mrs Felicity Hope

22nd September 2026

Dear parent/carer,

Re: expanded free school meal (FSM) eligibility and the pupil premium

Your child may newly qualify for free school meals, and we want to encourage you to register them.

From September 2026, **all pupils in households receiving Universal Credit are eligible for free school meals**. Your household income doesn't matter – as long as you receive Universal Credit, your child can claim free school meals. We strongly encourage you to check if you're eligible under the new criteria. See below for more information on how to check if your child qualifies.
Children in reception, year 1 and year 2 will continue to receive free school meals through a different scheme. However, if they are also eligible for free school meals in line with the criteria below, we still really want you to register – see why below.

Why register for free school meals?

Pupils who are registered for free school meals will get healthy, nutritious and balanced food at school that helps make sure they're ready to learn and thrive at school. Registering your child for free school meals is also important because **the school might get extra 'pupil premium' funding from the government as a result** – for each eligible pupil, the school will get an extra **£1,550** in pupil premium funding in 2026/27. The school will receive this in September next year if you are registered by 1st October which is Census Day. If you prefer your child to have packed lunches, don't worry – they can still have this if they're registered for free school meals.

You can find more information about pupil premium on our website at:
https://www.stfrancisofassisi.co.uk/key-information/pupil-premium/. You can see what we spent it on in the past academic year and how it will be spent this year. For example, we've previously used pupil premium funding for:

- Educational provision/resources
- Academic interventions
- Wellbeing and self-esteem building interventions such as ELSA
- Paying for school trips for disadvantaged pupils.

Is my child eligible for free school meals and the pupil premium?
From September 2026, there will be 2 categories of free school meals:

Targeted FSM – your child may be eligible if you receive:

- Universal Credit **and** have an annual household income of **£7,400 or less**
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit

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- Your child might also qualify if you have no recourse to public funds (NRPF).

Pupils receiving targeted FSM:

- Can receive free school meals
- Will attract pupil premium funding for the school
- Will be eligible for other support, such as the Holiday Activities and Food programme such as Big Norfolk Holiday Fun.
- Will receive support from Thomas Anguish Fund to pay for residential trips.

Expanded FSM – your child is eligible if you receive:
Universal Credit **and** have an annual household income of **over £7,400**
Pupils receiving expanded FSM:

- Can receive free school meals
- But will not attract pupil premium funding for the school, nor be eligible for other support that's based on targeted FSM

How do I register?

You can apply for pupil premium funding in Norfolk by registering for free school meals through the Norfolk County Council Free School Meals Portal**. Alternatively, please come and see Emily Palmer in the office for support on how to apply please.**

More information

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs Claire Furness Disadvantage and LAC lead.

You can also find more information at www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Claire Furness
Senior Assistant Headteacher