

ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Executive Headteacher: *Mr C Davey*

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27th of July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

[Changes to Free School Meals Page - LCC](#)

From 1st September 2026, free school meals are available to pupils 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

These new rules also mean that some **children who already get free school meals may no longer be entitled to them.**

Understandably, these new Free School Meals changes are a huge task for Liverpool City Council to roll out across all children in the LA, so please make sure you follow the below **'Do I need to apply?'** information taken directly from their website:

Do I need to apply?

If you receive **Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support** and **your child already gets free school meals**, we will write to you in August 2026 to let you know if your child still qualifies. We'll also tell you if you need to apply.

If you receive **Universal Credit**, we may write to you for more information and tell you what to do next. If you do not get a letter from us by 15th August 2026, please apply online using the instructions below.

A pupil is only eligible to receive a free school meal where both:

- a claim for this support has been made (*we will remind you again on the 15th Aug*)
- their eligibility has been verified by the school where they are enrolled or by the local authority

Households may also be entitled to a meal if they:

- are in receipt of income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- receive the guarantee element of Pension Credit

- meet criteria set out in separate guidance for [families with no recourse to public funds](#)

Liverpool City Council will write to you with information on what to do next. If you do not receive this letter before 15th of August you should apply online:

www.liverpool.gov.uk/benefits/free-school-meals/

You will receive an instant confirmation
IF YOU ARE ENTITLED TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS
please send this email confirmation to r.byrne@stjohnsprimaryschool.com

Children from Reception to Year 2 will still be entitled to Universal Free School Meals.

Even if you think your child is eligible, but would not take a school meal, by applying, you will allow the school to **claim additional funding** for new equipment and resources for **all of our children**, so it is really worth completing this form.

For further information visit: www.liverpool.gov.uk/benefits/free-school-meals/

Many thanks to you all for your continued support and co operation.

Mr Davey

Executive Headteacher.

Reminder

- You are only entitled when you have made a claim for support **and** your eligibility has been verified by the Local Authority - so **you must follow this link when you have received your letter from Liverpool City Council OR online from the 15th of August**

<http://www.liverpool.gov.uk/benefits/free-school-meals/>

- You are only entitled when the school can verify that you are entitled. **You will receive an email** (*which you should keep*) from the LA proving your eligibility.

Please **forward this email** to - r.byrne@stjohnsprimaryschool.com

