

Appreciation | Care | Determination | Honesty | Respect | Responsibility020 8886 7108
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www.osidgeschool.org

Chase Side, Southgate, N14 5HD

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Important Free School Meals (FSM) Information

Please carefully read the information below as it contains important information for **all parents and carers**, including those whose children currently receive free school meals, those who have recently completed an eligibility form, and those who think their child may be eligible.

All families who wish to receive free school meals through the benefits-based eligibility criteria must complete an application. Eligibility is reviewed annually, and a new application may be required each academic year.

The eligibility criteria for free school meals have changed for the **2026–2027 academic year**. If your household receives Universal Credit, your child may be eligible for free school meals.

Please follow this link to apply: <https://fsm.lgfl.net/app>

Once your application has been processed, you will be notified immediately of the outcome. The school will also receive notification of your application and will process this where your child is eligible.

Important Information for Primary School Parents

Currently, all children in **Key Stage 2** attending state-funded primary schools in London can receive a free school meal under the Mayor of London's Universal Free School Meals Programme. However, this scheme is funded by the Mayor of London and may not continue indefinitely.

If the programme ends, families who are not eligible for free school meals through the benefits-based criteria may be required to pay for their child's school meals. We therefore encourage all parents and carers who may be eligible to complete an application.

Registering for free school meals helps to ensure that your child can continue to receive free meals if the universal scheme changes. It also enables the school to receive additional funding through the **Pupil Premium**, which is used to support children's learning, progress and wider development.

Please refer to the next page for some frequently asked questions. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,

*Chrisanthy Dyer***Head Teacher**

Frequently Asked Questions

My child currently receives a free school meal at school. Do I need to apply?

If your child receives a free school meal because your family meets the benefits-based eligibility criteria, you should complete an application to confirm your eligibility for the 2026–2027 academic year. If your child receives a free school meal because of the Mayor of London's Universal Free School Meals Programme, you do not need to apply for them to receive their meal at present. However, we strongly encourage families who may be eligible under the benefits-based criteria to apply, as this may provide continued support if the universal scheme changes.

My child is in Key Stage 2 and already receives a free school meal. Why should I apply?

Although all Key Stage 2 pupils currently receive a free school meal through the Mayor of London's programme, registering under the benefits-based criteria is important. It means your child may continue to receive free school meals if the universal scheme changes or ends. It also helps the school to receive Pupil Premium funding, which supports children's learning and development.

What if I have already completed an application?

If you have recently completed an application, you do not need to apply again unless you are asked to do so. You will be notified of the outcome once your application has been processed.

What are the eligibility criteria?

Eligibility is based on your household circumstances and the benefits you receive. The criteria have changed for the 2026–2027 academic year. If your household receives Universal Credit, your child may be eligible. The application form will confirm whether you meet the current criteria.

How do I apply?

Applications can be completed online at:

<https://fsm.lgfl.net/app>

You will be notified immediately of the outcome once your application has been processed.

Will applying affect my child in any way?

No. Your child will receive their school meal in the same way as other pupils. Applying for benefits-based free school meals also enables the school to receive Pupil Premium funding, where applicable.

Will I receive supermarket vouchers during the school holidays?

No. The Government has ended the use of automatic supermarket vouchers during school holidays. Families should not therefore expect to receive holiday vouchers automatically because their child is eligible for benefits-based free school meals.

I am not sure whether I am eligible. Should I apply?

Yes. If you think your household may meet the eligibility criteria, we encourage you to complete an application. There is no disadvantage to applying, and the online system will confirm whether your child is eligible.

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Who can I contact if I have a question?

If you have any questions about free school meals or the application process, please contact the school office.