



13th July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Important Changes to Free School Meals Eligibility

From September 2026 there will be national changes to Free School Meals (FSM) and Pupil Premium funding.

Protection of FSM was put in place in 2018 whilst the government rolled out Universal Credit. Every family who has been eligible for FSM and Pupil Premium at any point since 2018, has received free meals, even if their circumstances later changed. Now that Universal Credit has been fully rolled out, this will cease.

This means that some families who have received FSM since 2018 may no longer be eligible. Pupil Premium funding covering subsidised school trips, books and music lessons will also be affected.

The school will notify you in September if your family is eligible for one of the following categories:

- **Targeted** – family is eligible for free school meals AND Pupil Premium funding
- **Expanded** – family is eligible for free school meals but NOT Pupil Premium funding
- **No Longer Eligible** – family was eligible under the previous rules, but is not eligible now. For 6 years after the end date, family will still receive Pupil Premium funding but NOT free school meals.

It is very important that the DCC Checking Team has the details of all families, to ensure that any changes in circumstances are actioned quickly. Eligibility is rechecked every month. If your family does become eligible, we will be notified.

Please register your family with the DCC Checking Team, even if your child prefers a packed lunch, or if you think that you will not be eligible. It is quick and easy to do. You can register online by visiting www.derbyshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals, or by using the details below.

Telephone:	01629 536481
Email:	checking@derbyshire.gov.uk
Ask for:	Free School Meals Checking Team

One registered, DCC only need to be notified again if the parent surname changes, there are siblings to add to the record, or the child/ren becomes resident with a different parent or carer.

Rowsley C of E Primary School

Woodhouse Road, Rowsley, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 2ED

Tel: (01629) 733727

Email: info@rowsley.derbyshire.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Alexia Wyer



If you have any queries please contact the DCC Checking Team first on the details above. If you are still unsure, please contact me at school. Please note however that I am unable to tell you which category you are in until I receive the information from DCC after we return to school in September.

Kind Regards

Shelley Middlebrook
School Business Manager