



Manchester Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Make Manchester
Magic



July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Important Changes to Free School Meals from September 2026

We would like to inform you about important changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility that will come into effect from September 2026.

Under the new arrangements, all children living in households that receive Universal Credit will be eligible for Free School Meals. This change means that many more families will now qualify for support.

If you receive Universal Credit, please apply now – even if you have applied previously (prior to 1st June 2026). Applications for free school meals should be submitted through the Manchester City Council website:- [Online FSM Application](#)

To ensure that eligibility is correctly assessed under the new criteria, all parents and carers must apply or reapply for Free School Meals, even if their child currently receives them. Completing an application will help ensure that children continue to receive their entitlement and will also enable schools to access any additional funding available to support pupils.

End of Transitional Protection

Temporary protections which were allowing children to continue receiving Free School Meals without rechecking eligibility will end at the close of the 2025–2026 academic year. From September 2026:

- Eligibility will be re-checked each June/July.
- All families must meet the current eligibility criteria to continue receiving Free School Meals.

What do you need to do?

Even if your income has increased since your last application, your child may still qualify under the new system.

If you have not applied since 1 June 2026, please do so now to ensure that your child continues to receive free meals.

The school will be notified once eligibility is confirmed. Submitting an application does not mean meals will start immediately.

We encourage all families who receive Universal Credit to apply as soon as possible. If you need support with completing your application, please contact school who will be happy to assist you through the process.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J. Eldon, Executive Principal North



Executive Principal: James Eldon
Manchester Academy is part of United Learning. United Learning comprises: UCSL (Registered in England no: 2780748, Charity No: 10165382 and UCSL (Registered in England No: 4439859, An Exempt Charity.)
Companies limited by guarantee. Vat number: 834 8515 12. Registered Address: United Learning, Worldwide House, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough, PE3 75B

Manchester Academy
Moss Lane East
Moss Side
Manchester
M14 4PX
t 0161 232 1639
e office@manchester-academy.org
www.manchester-academy.org

