

June 2026

Dear Parent or carer,

Important changes to 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.

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 **£1,100** in pupil premium funding in 2026/27.

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.cansfield.wigan.sch.uk/curriculum/groups/pupil-premium/> you can see what we spent the money on in the past academic year and how it will be spent this year. For example, we've previously used pupil premium funding for:

- Wider strategies (for example, related to attendance, behaviour, wellbeing)
- Targeted academic support (for example, tutoring, one-to-one support structured interventions)

Is my child eligible for free school meals and the pupil premium?

From September 2026, there will be **two** 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
- Your child might also qualify if you have no recourse to public funds (NRPF).

Headteacher: [Mrs N Daniels](#)
Cansfield, Old Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan. WN4 9TP

Pupils receiving targeted FSM:

- Can receive free school meals
- Will attract pupil premium funding for the school
- May be eligible for other support, <https://www.cansfield.wigan.sch.uk/safeguarding/family-hub/>

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
- 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?

Your child may be eligible under the new rules, therefore it is essential that all households, including those who currently are or have been in receipt of free school meals, should apply online using the link below, by 17th July to ensure support is in place for September. This will take you to an online form where you can enter your details which will enable a check to take place. You will need to enter your Name, Date of Birth and National Insurance details.

<https://forms.wigan.gov.uk/xfp/form/750>

For information on registering for free school meals if you are a household with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), see the FAQs on the following pages.

More information and support

To support our parents and carers with this new process, we will be offering drop-in sessions until the end of term to provide assistance with completing online applications. Please see the dates below:

Thursday 25 th June	-	2pm until 3pm
Monday 29 th June	-	9am until 10am
Wednesday 1 st July	-	11am until 12pm
Friday 3 rd July	-	12pm until 2pm
Monday 6 th July	-	8.30am until 11am
Tuesday 7 th July	-	2pm until 4pm
Thursday 9 th July	-	10am until 12pm
Tuesday 14 th July	-	8.30am until 10am
Thursday 16 th July	-	2pm until 4pm

We are also available to offer support during the summer holidays if needed. If you would like to arrange an appointment, please email k.smith@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk and we will be happy to help.

If you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please contact either Nat Fagan n.fagan@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk or Karen Smith k.smith@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk

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

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K.L. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i' in Smith.

Karen Smith
Office Manager/PA to Headteacher

Free school meals and the pupil premium: FAQs

Pupil premium FAQs

What is pupil premium funding?

Pupil premium is additional funding for schools for pupils who:

- Are registered for targeted free school meals (FSM)
- Have been registered for FSM at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

How much pupil premium funding does the school receive?

At Cansfield High School, we get an **extra £1,100** in 2026/27 for every eligible pupil who is registered for targeted free school meals. This extra money makes a real difference to the quality of education we can offer.

Free school meals (FSM) FAQs

How does it work in practice?

<https://www.cansfield.wigan.sch.uk/school-life/school-meals/>

Will the fact my child is registered for FSM be made public?

We keep this information as confidential as possible. We do not publish identifying details of children registered for FSM.

My household has no recourse to public funds (NRPF). Is my child eligible for free school meals?

Children of households with NRPF may be eligible, this includes:

- Zambrano and Chen carers (non-EEA nationals caring for a British citizen residing in the UK)
- British National (Overseas) passport holders
- Spousal visa, work visa, or student visa holders
- Those with no immigration status
- Families who have NRPF right to remain in the UK under Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights
- Families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 who are subject to a NRPF restriction
- Certain failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

The maximum income thresholds for families with NRPF who can work are:

- £22,700 for families outside London with 1 child
- £26,300 for families outside London with 2 or more children

Families must also have no more than £16,000 in capital and savings.

NRPF: How to register for free school meals

The process for registering for free school meals is different as we have to check your eligibility in a different way. Please check the link below for further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools-and-local-authorities/providing-free-school-meals-to-families-with-no-recourse-to-public-funds-nrpf>

My child already has free school meals: are they still eligible?

Your child may be eligible under the new rules, therefore it is essential that all households, including those who currently are or have been in receipt of free school meals, should apply online using the link below, by 17th July to ensure support is in place for September. This will take you to an online form where you can enter your details which will enable a check to take place. You will need to enter your Name, Date of Birth and National Insurance details.

<https://forms.wigan.gov.uk/xfp/form/750>