

20th May 2025

Important Update – Free School Meals Eligibility

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to inform you of a recent national change to Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility that may affect your child and any children preparing to move from primary to secondary school.

End of Transitional Protection – Action Required

The Post-Transition Transitional Protection (PTTP) was a government policy introduced during the rollout of Universal Credit, which ensured that any pupil who became eligible for Free School Meals remained entitled to them until the end of their current phase of education (e.g., primary or secondary), even if their family's circumstances later changed. The government's Post-Transition Transitional Protection (PTTP) for Free School Meals ended on 31 March 2025. Up to this point, pupils who became eligible for FSM under Universal Credit were protected and continued to receive meals, even if their financial circumstances changed.

Now that PTTP has ended, families must meet the current eligibility criteria to continue receiving Free School Meals and have their entitlement periodically checked, in addition to the continued expectation that parent/carers make us aware of any change in circumstances.

As a result, any change of circumstances, or if your child is transferring between phases (for example to secondary school in September 2025), they must have a new, valid Free School Meals application in place. Without this, they may no longer be entitled to receive free meals at their new school. For those with claims that were approved prior to the 1st April 2025 will continue to receive their entitlement until the end of their education phase, unless there is a change of circumstances requiring a new application.

How to Apply – Nottingham City Residents

If your child is or will be attending a Nottingham City maintained school, you can apply for FSM online at: www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/pupilbenefits from 1st September 2025. You may also log into your Citizens Portal account to apply or check the status of your application. We will not be accepting applications during the summer holidays.

If your child is or will be attending an academy, please contact them directly, as from the start of the new academic year (2025/2026) academies are managing their own Free School Meals arrangements.


Who is Eligible?

For more information about eligibility please visit our website at www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/pupilbenefits.

Need Help?

If you need support with the application process, please contact:

 pupil.benefits@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

 0115 841 5568

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Danny Hall
Service Delivery Lead (Education)
Nottingham City Council