

Changes to Free School meals

Transitional Protection (TP) Free School Meals (FSM) was introduced from April 2018. This meant that even if you no longer met the income criteria for FSM then your child could continue to receive them until the rollout of Universal Credit had completed.

The Government has now announced that TP ended on 31 March 2025. Any eligible claims starting from 01 April 2025 will not be protected if your family income changes and no longer meets the qualifying criteria for FSM.

The new rules mean that we will be reviewing your eligibility to FSM on a regular basis and that you should inform us of income changes.

New applications for FSM from 1 April 2025

Any child confirmed as eligible for free school meals after 1 April 2025 will be subject to ongoing reviews to check their continued eligibility. The first of these reviews will be done at the end of the summer term. The frequency of review may change later, we will communicate any changes via your school and our website.

Children already receiving FSM

Children who were receiving FSM before 1 April 2025 may continue to do so until the end of their current school phase (primary or secondary) even if your income changes.

A review of all eligible children leaving year 6 (primary) will be done each year before they move up to year 7. Once in year 7, even if other children in your family remain eligible for FSM because they are still covered by the TP, the child moving to Year 7 will no longer be protected and will lose their FSM if:

- your income has already changed such that they would not qualify for FSM if you were applying now
- future changes in income mean they are no longer eligible.

How we will inform you

We will write to you if we cancel your child's FSM, and we will inform the school directly.

What you should notify us about

Please inform us of any of the changes such as:

- you no longer wish to receive free school meals
- your income no longer meets the criteria above
- a new partner joins your household
- you move house
- your child changes their name
- you change your name
- another child in your family starts school
- your child goes into care
- your child changes schools
- your child moves between parents and/or guardians

Contact

If you wish to report any changes to your family circumstances or have any queries, please call our customer service line on 0300 300 8306. Alternatively, you may email us at revsandbensfsm@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk