



St Peter's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs P M^cArthur



Bishop Wilkinson
Catholic Education Trust
Through Christ, in Partnership

Free School Meals – Important Information for Families

22nd June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to share important information about free school meals (FSM) and changes coming from **September 2026**.

Important changes

- From September 2026, more families will qualify for free school meals.
- Eligibility will be checked every year by school.
- **Transitional protection is ending.** This means some children who currently receive means-tested free school meals **may no longer be entitled from September** unless they meet the new criteria.

Who can apply?

From September 2026, all children whose families receive Universal Credit will be eligible for free school meals. Free school meals will have two categories, targeted and expanded.

Targeted Free School Meals

- For families on Universal Credit with household earnings of £7,400 or less.
- Children receive free meals.
- The school receives additional funding (Pupil Premium) to support learning.

Expanded Free School Meals

- For families on Universal Credit with earnings above £7,400.
- Children still receive free meals.
- However, schools do not receive additional funding.

All children in **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2** will continue to receive universal infant free school meals automatically.

What we need you to do

To make things as simple as possible, the school will complete a bulk eligibility check once per year on your behalf.

To allow us to do this, ALL parents and carers must log into the Arbor App and provide the following details:

- Parent/carer **Date of Birth**.
- Parent/carer **National Insurance Number/ Asylum Seeker Reference Number**.

[Click here for guidance on how to add your NI number and DOB to Arbor](#)

Providing this information allows us to securely check eligibility using the government system.



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Parent/Carer Checklist

Please complete this checklist by **30th June 2026**.

- ✓ Log in to the Arbor App.
- ✓ Check your personal details are up to date.
- ✓ Add your Date of Birth.
- ✓ Add your National Insurance Number/Asylum Seeker Reference Number.
- ✓ Save your changes.

Why this matters?

If we do not have this information:

- We may not be able to check if your child is eligible.
- Your child could **miss out on free school meals**.

As some families may lose entitlement owing to the end of transitional protection, we **ask ALL families** to record this information in Arbor by the 30th June 2026. This allows sufficient time for us to run a batch check on your behalf and make the relevant changes to Arbor, ready for September 2026, ensuring continuation of entitlement.

Personal Data

You need only provide this data once. We will hold it in school to perform the eligibility checks and delete once your child (or children) leave school.

We are committed to ensuring that the personal and sensitive information that we hold about you is protected and kept safe and secure, and we have measures in place to prevent the loss, misuse or alteration of your personal information.

Additional Funding for School

We want to make sure that we are providing your child with the best education and support we can. If your family is eligible, our school will receive additional funding through the **Pupil Premium grant**, which directly supports teaching, resources, and wider opportunities for pupils. Even if your child prefers to bring a packed lunch into school each day, we would be grateful if you would input your details in Arbor – this additional funding will be paid whether or not your child takes a meal.

Need help?

If you have any questions or need support accessing Arbor, please contact the school office.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs P M^cArthur
Headteacher



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