



# ST RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

- **Important: Changes to Free School Meals – Please Check Your Eligibility**

We are writing to let you know about important changes to free school meals (FSM) that will take effect from September 2026, but you must act now.

- **What has changed?**

From September, all pupils in households on Universal Credit will qualify for free school meals, either as Targeted FSM or Expanded FSM. If you receive Universal Credit, your child is now likely to qualify, even if you did not qualify before.

- **Important – you must apply**

Free school meals are not awarded automatically. You must complete an application and have your eligibility checked in order to receive this support.

- **Existing FSM Eligible families – please read carefully!**

If your child currently receives free school meals: all eligibility must be checked again before September 2026.

**Previous protections are ending, so some families may no longer qualify or the status of your application may change.**

**This means it is essential that your details are up to date and your eligibility is confirmed.**

- **Why this matters?**

Applying for free school meals ensures your child receives free meals at school and in some cases, it helps to secure additional funding for the school to support pupils.

**What you need to do now:**

- If you receive Universal Credit, please apply
- If your circumstances have changed, please check your eligibility
- Please complete your application as soon as possible to ensure meals are in place for September.
- Apply here: <https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-tameside>
- If you need help applying, please contact the school office

We strongly encourage all families to renew or check their eligibility, as many more children will now qualify.

Kind regards

**Claire Fletcher**  
School Business Manager

"May God's love shine in our lives as we care and share and learn together."