

Families urged to check Free School Meals eligibility as support expands

26 August 2026



National eligibility changes have been made to Free School Meals and we are urging our Westmorland and Furness families to check whether they are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM). From September 2026 all households receiving Universal Credit can apply, regardless of income. Families must still apply, as eligibility is not awarded automatically.

The changes remove the previous earnings threshold for Universal Credit claimants, meaning more working families who receive Universal Credit top-up payments may now qualify for support.

As a result of changes to national funding, the school holiday WONDE supermarket voucher scheme for children receiving income-related Free School Meals will come to an end.

Councillor Janet Battye, Westmorland and Furness Council Cabinet Member for Children's Services, said:

"We want to ensure that every family who is entitled to support receives it. The

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additional support and funding for schools. You can also pop into any of our Family Hubs and ask for help and information from our friendly teams."

Applications can be made online through the Westmorland and Furness Council website and typically take only a few minutes to complete.

For more information and to apply, visit: **Free school meals and clothing vouchers | Westmorland and Furness Council** [Free school meals and clothing vouchers | Westmorland and Furness Council](#) If you are struggling to fill in the online information, our Customer Services people will help you. Please either email us at Email: FSM.ClothingGrants@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk Or Telephone: [0300 373 3300](tel:0300 373 3300)

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