

# Free School Meals

Updated information for Belmont families | Academic year 2026-27

## NEW FROM SEPTEMBER 2026

**Free School Meal eligibility has been expanded. Children from households receiving Universal Credit can now qualify regardless of household earnings.**

## Who can receive benefits-based free school meals?

Free school meals are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

|                                                                |                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| • Universal Credit                                             | • Income-related Employment and Support Allowance |
| • Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 | • The guaranteed element of Pension Credit        |

## From September 2026 there are two categories

| TARGETED FSM                                                                                                                                  | EXPANDED FSM                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The existing threshold remains. This covers pupils in households receiving Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less. | A new category for pupils who do not qualify for Targeted FSM but are in households receiving Universal Credit. |

**ALL TARGETED AND EXPANDED FSM-ELIGIBLE CHILDREN RECEIVE A FREE SCHOOL MEAL.**

If your child is eligible for Targeted FSM, Belmont will receive additional funding called the [Pupil Premium grant](#).

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>WHY SHOULD I APPLY?</b></p> <p>Even if your child already receives a free meal, registering for benefits-based FSM can help Belmont access additional funding and may also make your child eligible for other support.</p> | <p><b>APPLY ONLINE</b><br/><a href="#">Lincolnshire County Council</a></p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|

# Free meals for younger children at Belmont

Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) are available to all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

| RECEPTION        | YEAR 1           | YEAR 2           |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| FREE SCHOOL MEAL | FREE SCHOOL MEAL | FREE SCHOOL MEAL |

**THIS APPLIES TO EVERY CHILD — REGARDLESS OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME.**

**At Belmont Community Primary School, every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receives a free school meal. Your household income does not affect this entitlement.**

Universal Infant Free School Meals are different from benefits-based free school meals. If your family may be eligible for benefits-based FSM, it is still important to apply because your child may qualify for additional support and, where eligible for Targeted FSM, Belmont can receive Pupil Premium funding.

## Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Children and young people who qualify for benefits-related free school meals can access free holiday clubs during:

| EASTER | SUMMER | CHRISTMAS |
|--------|--------|-----------|
|--------|--------|-----------|

Clubs provide a wide range of activities, including:

|                                                           |                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| • sports and games                                        | • arts and crafts |
| • music                                                   | • drama           |
| • learning about food as well as healthy meals and snacks |                   |

Find out more about HAF: [Lincolnshire County Council – Holiday Activities and Food Programme](#)

## How to apply for benefits-based free school meals

Applications are made through Lincolnshire County Council. Use the official online application page:

**APPLY FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS**  
**[Lincolnshire County Council application page](#)**

If you are applying because your household receives Universal Credit, please apply even if your earnings are above the previous £7,400 threshold. From September 2026, Expanded FSM covers children in households receiving Universal Credit who do not qualify for Targeted FSM.

Need help?

If you need help with your application, please contact Belmont Community Primary School.

This information has been updated for the 2026–27 academic year.