

Family information service – free school meals team

## End of free school meals transitional protection (31 March 2025)

The Department for Education has confirmed that free school meal protection has now ended. This means that from **1 April 2025** any child awarded free school meals from this date onwards will have their eligibility rechecked regularly by the free school meals team (we will re-check every term from September 2025 onwards). If free school meals was awarded before 1 April 2025, the free school meals for the child will remain protected until the end of their current phase of education (either primary or secondary) and we will therefore not recheck those pupils until the end of their school phase.

### What happens next?

During the summer term we will be re-checking free school meals eligibility for all current **Year 6** and **Year 11** pupils in Solihull. Any children who are no longer eligible will have their free school meals entitlement ended from **22 July 2025**. You will receive details of the children affected via your usual free school meals daily report which will show the child's status as 'Cancelled' and there will be an end date which you will need to input into your information management system.

If you have any queries from families about their child's free school meals eligibility, please direct them to us via [edfreesm@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:edfreesm@solihull.gov.uk) or **0121 704 6611**.

### Children newly entitled from 1 April 2025 (not protected)

From **September 2025** we will carry out **termly re-checks** on any children who were newly entitled to free school meals from 1 April 2025 (as these are not protected) so your daily free school meal reports will continue to show the correct children, with any no longer entitled showing as cancelled with an end date for you to add to your school system. Families will be notified of the changes to their entitlement by the Free School Meals team following the rechecks.

### Parent enquiries

We are already receiving a high number of enquiries from protected families regarding the changes to free school meals protection. We would be grateful if you can inform your eligible families that the changes only affect the children **currently in year 6 and year 11** or children

For more information, please contact

**Family information service – free school meals team**

[edfreesm@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:edfreesm@solihull.gov.uk)

**0121 704 6611**

**[Free school meals and universal infant free school meals information on  
www.solihull.gov.uk](http://www.solihull.gov.uk)**

that have only been entitled to free school meals **since 1 April 2025**. All other children will continue to receive their free school meals entitlement until the end of their school phase.

## Arrangements for September 2025

We will send you a list of all your entitled children before the start of the new academic year so that they can be set up for free school meals ready for the new term. The report will not show any children who are no longer entitled.

## Ongoing data

From **September 2025** you will need to ensure you access your **free school meals daily reports** as these will show any children who are no longer entitled and their end date for free school meals for you to update on your school system.