

Excellence, Aspiration & Care

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Cecil Road, Southgate, London, N14 5RJ

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer(s)

**Re: Important Free School Meals (FSM) Information**

Please carefully read all the information below as it contains important information for ALL parents/carers, even if you are already entitled to free school meals, have recently completed an eligibility form or think you are eligible for FSM.

All families who are currently eligible for free school meals will continue to be until the end of this academic year. After which, without completing a new request form, your free school meal entitlement will end. This means that everyone will be required to apply for free school meals. This will be an annual requirement; circumstances will be checked at the end of each school year.

**The criteria eligibility for free school meals is changing ahead of the new academic year (2026-2027).**

If a household is in receipt of Universal Credit your child may become eligible.

Please follow this link <https://fsm.lgfl.net/app> to apply. Once your application has been processed, you will be notified on your eligibility immediately. Ashmole Academy will also receive your application and will process this if eligible, ready for September 2026.

The Government will be ending the use of supermarket vouchers during school holidays. This means families will no longer receive automatic holiday vouchers after April 2026.

Please refer to the next page for frequently asked questions that you may have. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school via [office@ashmoleacademy.org](mailto:office@ashmoleacademy.org).

Yours faithfully



Miss L Zimmermann-Moles  
**Trust Finance Manager**

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## FSM FAQ's

### **What are free school meals (FSM)?**

Free school meals provide eligible students with a free school lunch during the school day. Eligibility is set by the government and schools/local authorities manage applications. Eligible students will be automatically given £2.90 per day which covers the cost of a plate of food and a drink or dessert. This money will not roll forward if it is not spent on the day. This will be shown daily in your child's catering balance.

### **What has changed about free school meals?**

From September 2026, eligibility rules are changing so that more families may qualify. You may be able to apply if you receive universal credit or other qualifying benefits. We encourage all families to check eligibility, even if you have not qualified before.

### **If I have more than one child at Ashmole, do I only need to do one application?**

You will have to complete separate applications for each child you wish to be in receipt of free school meals.

### **Does my child get free school meals for the whole time they are a student, once I've applied?**

No, not any more under the new rules. You will need to re-apply each academic year in future. Once approved, entitlement will be awarded for the full academic year, regardless of any changes in circumstances.

### **My child brings packed lunches – should I still apply?**

Yes, even if your child usually brings lunch from home, registering may still unlock additional support and funding for school resources and student support.

### **I applied before and was refused. Should I try again?**

Yes. Eligibility rules change and family circumstances change too. We encourage families to reapply if circumstances have changed or if you are unsure.

### **How long does an application take?**

Most applications are quick to complete and only take a few minutes. Successful applications will be effective from September 2026.

### **What information will I need to apply?**

You may be asked for information such as:

- Your name and address
- Date of birth
- National Insurance Number
- Details relating to qualifying benefits

### **Does registering help the academy?**

Yes. When families register for free school meals, we may receive additional funding to support students through extra resources, interventions and wider support.