

MAYOR OF LONDON

25 August 2026

Sent by email

Dear families,

We are writing to let you know about a change to how the Government's Free School Meals scheme is funded and what this means for your family.

What's not changing: all children attending a London state primary school will continue to receive a free school lunch every day.

Sadiq Khan will continue to fund Universal Free School Meals for London's state primary schools for as long as he is the Mayor of London. This means that if your child attends a London state primary school, they will continue to receive a free school lunch every day.

What is changing: who can get government-funded Free School Meals.

The Government has expanded its Free School Meals scheme so that all children in households receiving Universal Credit are now eligible, regardless of household income.

What does this mean for you?

If your household receives Universal Credit, your council may already be checking eligibility and registering children. If so, you don't need to do anything.

If you haven't heard from your school or council, please contact your school before Thursday 1st October 2026 to make sure your child is registered for the national Government's Free School Meals scheme. Your school may ask you to fill out a form, or they may fill this out for you.

Why is this important?

Registering means:

1. Your child can continue receiving free meals for as long as they're eligible, even after they leave primary school.
2. Your school may receive additional funding through Pupil Premium, worth up to £1,550 per child, helping to support pupils who need it most. This funding enables boroughs to invest in targeted support, including for those with special educational needs and disabilities, mentoring, staff training, breakfast clubs and after school clubs. It also helps parents access further support, including council grants to buy school uniforms.

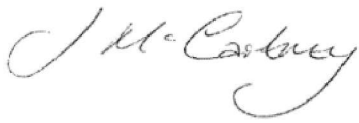
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Will my child receive free school means if I don't register?

Yes, if your child attends a London primary state school, they will continue to receive a free school meal every day. However, if you receive Universal Credit, registering helps ensure that your child and school receive the full support available to them.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,
Joanne McCartney

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'J McCartney'.

Joanne McCartney
Statutory Deputy Mayor / Deputy Mayor for Children and Families