



RESPECT  
BELIEVE  
ACHIEVE

## Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School

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Ms K. Smyth    Headteacher

KS/GM

19 June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Free School Meals**

The government is changing the rules for Free School Meals from 1 September 2026.

Previously, if your child qualified for free school meals, they could continue receiving them even if your family's circumstances changed. From September 2026, this protection will end. To continue receiving free school meals, families must meet the eligibility criteria at the start of the 2026-27 school year.

However, the government is expanding eligibility so that **all children in households receiving Universal Credit can qualify**, regardless of household income.

### **Who can apply:**

Your child may be eligible if you receive;

- Universal Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Support under the rules for families with no recourse to public funds

### **Why apply:**

All eligibility checks should be completed before the start of 2026-27 school year so that eligible pupils can receive free school meals from September. We encourage all parents and carers to complete an online application form. Even if your child is not currently eligible, applying now will help ensure they can receive free school meals in the future if your circumstances change.

### **How to apply:**

Complete the online application form at <https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims> and the secure system will automatically check your eligibility.

### **Information you will need:**

- Your full name and date of birth
- Contact details (phone and/or email)
- National Insurance Number or National Asylum Seekers Number
- Your child's name and date of birth
- The name of the school your child currently attends or will attend



**What to do:**

1. Go to <https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims/apply>
2. Complete the online application form
3. Submit your application

**What happens next?**

You will receive email confirming whether your child is eligible for free school meals. Please keep a record of your application reference number. The school will be notified automatically of the outcome. If your child is eligible, free school meals will be provided.

If you have any questions or need support with the application, please contact us at [admin@cardinal-heenan.org.uk](mailto:admin@cardinal-heenan.org.uk)

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Smyth'.

Ms K Smyth  
**Headteacher**