



15 June 2026

Dear Parent/ Carer

Application for Free School Meals (FSM) for the 2026/27 Academic Year

The eligibility criteria for FSM for the 2026/27 academic year is changing and will expand to include all households receiving Universal Credit regardless of earnings. Everyone must check their FSM eligibility annually and all households must meet the eligibility criteria.

These checks can start from the 1st June 2026 for the following academic year 2026/27. If your check confirms that you will be eligible, this will only come into effect on the 1st September 2026. However, if you are already in receipt of FSM, the outcome from the check will not affect your current status until 1st September.

Free school meals are available to any full-time student (aged 5-18) who is still at school and eligible, even if your child chooses not to take a meal. By receiving your correct entitlement for free school meals, Rooks Heath's funding will be positively impacted which will ultimately improve the level of resources we can provide for your child's education. A substantial amount of this funding does not reach schools because not all parents who are eligible apply for free school meals for their child. As all students at the school now use the biometric system in the canteen, we can assure you that the whole process operates discreetly.

All students, new year 7 students and in year admissions to Rooks Heath School must reapply for Free School Meals. You can now check your eligibility in preparation for the 2026/27 academic year, which will minimise disruption at the start of the school year. Please check your details at <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>, they must match exactly word by word to details on your benefits' paperwork. If you carry out your check after 31st August 2026 and it is confirmed as eligible, you will need to allow 48 hours (1-2 school days) for your child's Rookery account to be updated. It is important to note that FSM eligibility cannot be backdated, therefore it is essential that your child either brings a pack lunch or please ensure there are funds on their Rookery account to purchase food until your application has been approved, and our system updated.





Headteacher: Mrs. M. Manderson B.A.(Hons),
PGCE, NPQH

CEO: Dr. John Reavley, B.A. M.A. Ed.D.
www.rooksheath.harrow.sch.uk

We are committed to ensuring that the personal and sensitive information that we hold about you is protected and kept safe and secure, and we have measures in place to prevent the loss, misuse or alteration of your personal information. We will only use the information you provide to assess entitlement to free school meals.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms Gill via email at contactus@rooksheath.harrow.sch.uk if you require any assistance completing the online application form.

Yours sincerely,

Ms R Gill
Head of Health & Social Care
Pupil Premium Lead

