

SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Prittlewell Chase, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 0RG
(01702) 606200 enquiries@shsb.org.uk www.shsb.org.uk

Headteacher: Mrs R V Worth



16th July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to let you know about changes to the Free School Meals (FSM) criteria that the Government has announced.

Since 1 April 2018, families who became eligible for Free School Meals have been protected under transitional arrangements. This meant that children remained entitled to receive Free School Meals even if their family circumstances changed and they no longer met the eligibility criteria.

These transitional protections will end on **31 August 2026**. From the start of the **2026–27 academic year**, all families must meet the current FSM eligibility criteria in order to continue receiving Free School Meals.

If your child currently receives Free School Meals and you believe your family remains eligible, you must reapply for Free School meals. **If you do not reapply, your child's Free School Meal entitlement will end on 31 August 2026, and meals will no longer be provided free of charge from September 2026.**

Free School Meal Categories

From September 2026, there will be two categories of Free School Meals:

- **Targeted FSM** – for pupils in households receiving Universal Credit with annual earned income of **£7,400 or less**.
- **Expanded FSM** – for pupils in households receiving Universal Credit who do not meet the income threshold for Targeted FSM.

If your household circumstances have changed but you continue to receive Universal Credit, your child may still qualify for Free School Meals under one of the above categories.

What You Need to Do

To ensure that your child continues to receive Free School Meals from September 2026, please reapply for Free School Meals via the link [here](#).

Once you have received a confirmation email from Southend City Council, please forward this to enquiries@shsb.org.uk, and then we can set this up on the system so that you receive Free School Meals from September.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact enquiries@shsb.org.uk.



Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Palao
Office Manager