



Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019

## Free School Meals Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

As part of their work to support families in poverty, Cambridgeshire County Council have redesigned their online form for families wishing to check their free school meal (FSM) and Pupil Premium eligibility. Significant improvements made to the online application process should enable you (in most cases) to get an instant result of the outcome of your application.

If your child currently receives FSM you do not have to reapply as this entitlement is protected until the end of March 2022. However, applications do need to be made for younger siblings who are starting school in September. With recent changes to the benefit system, due to the phased roll-out of Universal Credit, you may qualify for this support and not be aware of it.

The form is quick and simple to complete. Once an application has been submitted for a child and you find you have not qualified, county will continue to check for future entitlement throughout your child's school life, informing you if they do become eligible. It is vital, therefore, that you inform us of any changes to your name or address.

You can access the online application at: [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)

The Education Welfare Benefits Team are also happy to answer any queries and can be contacted on **01223 703200** or [ewb.fsm@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:ewb.fsm@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Hardy".

Mrs K Hardy  
Inclusion Lead