



11th May 2026

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are all too aware of how recent cost-of-living increases may affect our local community, and we want to encourage you to access appropriate support. Pupil Premium and Free School Meals (FSM) funding may provide some vital support.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: CHANGES TO FREE SCHOOL MEAL ELIGIBILITY

We are writing to notify you that from 1 September 2026, there will be two categories of Free School Meal eligibility for households receiving Universal Credit:

TARGETED

Annual earnings of £7,400 or less.

Entitled to Free School Meals.

Attracts Pupil Premium and other disadvantaged funding for schools to support students.

EXPANDED

Annual earnings above £7,400.

Entitled to Free School Meals only.

Does not attract Pupil Premium funding or the additional entitlements .

How to Register

If your child is eligible and you register them, the school may receive the additional funding required depending on whether they qualify for Targeted or Expanded support. To register, please visit the Somerset Council web page:

Apply here:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/free-school-meals/>

Please be advised that the Local Authority is encouraging all families who are not currently entitled to free school meals to apply after 1 September 2026, as they may qualify under the expanded criteria after this date.

If you have any queries, please contact the Entitlements Team at fsm@somerset.gov.uk or call 01823 355765. Kind regards

St Dunstan's School