

Ref jls/finance

June 2026



**THE  
COWPLAIN  
SCHOOL**

**Principal**  
Mr IR Gates MA NPQH

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Forthcoming Extension of Free School Meal Eligibility**

From the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year, all children from households in receipt of **Universal Credit** will be entitled to receive a free school meal and we want to make sure that we are providing your child with the best education and support we can. Healthy school food can help students establish healthy habits for life and help to improve students' readiness to learn.

If you are in receipt of any of the following benefits and your child/children are currently **not** receiving free school meals, please apply online **now** ([see below](#)). You could also raise additional pupil premium funding for your child's school to fund support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities.

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers' Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit, and have an annual gross income, of no more than £16,190 as assessed by His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (Parents who are made redundant or start working less than 16 hours per week, may find their children are entitled to free meals for a limited period.)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit (from September 2026 all pupils from families claiming universal credit)

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/freeschoolmeals>

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L Sale".

Mrs L Sale  
Chief Financial Officer