



Learning together, growing together

Dorin Park School and Specialist SEN College

25.04.25

FYI: Transitional Protection for Free School Meals ended on 31 March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please note that Transitional Protection for Free School Meals ended on 31 March 2025.

What was Transitional Protection?

Transitional Protection was introduced on 1st April 2018. This meant that if a pupil's eligibility to **means-tested** Free School Meals ended, they would nevertheless remain entitled to Free School Meals until the end of the phase of education (primary or secondary) that they were in when TP ended.

Existing claimants (claim started prior to 1st April 2025)

From 1 April 2025, any existing claimants who do not meet the eligibility criteria will continue to receive Free School Meals until the end of the child's current phase of education (primary or secondary). Then they will be re-assessed for their eligibility status. This will initially affect pupils currently in year 6 or year 11.

New claimants (claim started 1st April 2025 or later)

Any new applications made on or after 1 April 2025 do not receive transitional protection.

What does Dorin Park School do?

Periodically we check the local authority's Free School Meals website looking for new or expired Free School Meals claims. We do not charge for School Meals from the start date of new claims. We charge for School Meals from the end date of expired claims. As there will be a delay between the local authority making changes and us becoming aware of them, it is in your interest to let us know asap when you've had a new claim accepted or you've had an existing one terminated.

Cheshire West and Chester & Free School Meals

Web: <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/free-school-meals>

Cheshire West and Cheshire Free School Meals Helpline is 0300 123 7039.

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