



Mosaic Partnership Trust
Central Office
Earlstone Crescent
Cadbury Heath
Bristol
BA30 8AA

01 June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the Chief Executive Officer of the Mosaic Partnership Trust, I am writing to share with you some key information in relation to **Free School Meals** and the **revised Ofsted Inspection framework** and to provide a wider **Trust update**.

Free School Meals – Important Changes from September 2026

We want to let you know about **important changes to Free School Meals (FSM)** that will start in **September 2026**. Free School Meals help children have a healthy meal each day, stay focused in school and support their learning and wellbeing.

From **September 2026**, more children will be able to get Free School Meals, which as a Trust we feel is great news for all our schools and most importantly for our children.

- **Before:** Only families on Universal Credit earning £7,400 or less per year qualified
- **Now: All families receiving Universal Credit will qualify**, no matter their income

From **September 2026**, your child may be eligible if you receive:

- Universal Credit
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

There will be two categories: **Targeted FSM** and **Expanded FSM (new)**. Both of these bring **additional money into the school** to then enable the school to better support children on the ground.

As a Trust we want this support to have an impact on both the outcomes of our children and the experiences they have in school, so the funding is important to us.

Please note that this is very **different from infant free meals**. Children in **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2** already receive free meals (this is called Universal Infant Free School Meals – UIFSM). This is **based on age, not income**.

So, what do you need to do?

Even if your child already gets UIFSM, **it's still important to register**, as:

- Schools **will receive extra funding** if you eligible
- Your child could continue receiving free meals after Year 2



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If you think you may be eligible, please let the school know. This is not an application yet – we just want to understand who may need support. You do not need to provide financial details at this stage.

- Your local council is updating the application system
- The school will contact you when applications are ready

Revised Ofsted Framework

Ofsted, which inspects schools has revised its framework in the last twelve months with full implementation from January 2026. We have now had an opportunity to look at how the framework is translating on the ground and wanted to take the time to explain the new grading system and what to expect as a parent and carer in the next year.

Ofsted will no longer give schools one overall grade such as “outstanding”, “good”, “requirements improvement” or “inadequate”. Instead, schools will receive a new report card with a 5-point grading scale across several areas. The new gradings are:

- Exceptional
- Strong Standard
- Expected Standard
- Needs Attention
- Urgent Improvement

Ofsted have been very clear to point out that **you cannot compare the old judgements with the new grades**. For example, the old judgement of ‘requires improvement’ does not mean the same as the new grade of ‘needs attention’ and the old judgement of ‘outstanding’ is not the same as the new grade of ‘exceptional’.

Ofsted have stated that ‘needs attention’ should be seen by a school as **advisory**, suggesting that work needs to be done to reach the expected standard in that area. **It is not a fail**, but it highlights where areas for development can be addressed before they become larger concerns where they may then need urgent improvement.

Ofsted continue to have high expectations and with all Trusts and all schools across the country we know that the bar has risen yet again.

When evaluating schools, using the new Ofsted Toolkit, Ofsted are expecting most schools to be graded at the ‘expected standard’ which, in itself, means that the school is providing an effective education for its children and doing everything it should be doing in that area.

Some schools may have areas graded at the ‘strong standard’. Ofsted expect that very few schools across the country will be graded as ‘exceptional’ in an area. Therefore, a school that was previously judged as ‘Good’ may now be graded as ‘expected standard’ under the new framework.



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This does not mean that the school's quality has declined. In many cases, the school may have improved its provision for pupils, but the criteria and expectations used by Ofsted are now **more demanding** than under the previous inspection framework. As a result, the school's judgement reflects these higher expectations, rather than a reduction in performance.

More information for parent/carers about the Ofsted framework can be found here:
[Understanding Ofsted report cards and grades - GOV.UK](#)

We are very proud of the outcomes that our schools achieve for the children and young people they serve and we are confident that our schools with Trust support will be well prepared for their next inspection under the revised framework.

Schools will generally be inspected within four to five years of their last inspection but for schools new to a Trust, this will be in the third year of joining a Trust.

Other updates

We continue as a Trust to work really hard with our schools on our education priorities. We are seeing the impact of our input on reading across our schools, our focus on the quality of teaching on classroom practice and the work undertaken with Professor Katriona O'Sullivan on closing the gap for those that experience disadvantage. We have seen real consistency emerge across our organisation in meeting the needs of our children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and feel well prepared to respond to the government SEND reforms.

Our children for the second year have had the opportunity of coming together for a shared Music event, with all our schools participating in Young Voices in Birmingham as a way of connecting and participating together. A number of our schools also collaborate and compete together in sporting events and opportunities.

As a Trust we remain in a good position both educationally and financially and that is in no small part down to the work of all the Trust staff whom I must pay tribute. The education sector has faced challenging times both in terms of change and what we would see as an overall reduction in funding, but the Trust remains resilient and committed to doing its very best for our children and we have great teaching and support staff in schools delivering on this.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide the very best education for your children.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Best

CEO – Mosaic Partnership Trust