

# Online Free School Meals

## System Overview

## Information Sheet

### Background

The Department for Education's Eligibility Checking Service enables Free School Meal eligibility to be determined without the need for paper evidence and with an extremely fast turnaround.

Use of the Eligibility Checking Service (ECS) has been shown to improve outcomes for parents, children, schools and the local authority. Clearly, the sooner the system is up and running the quicker the LA and schools will gain benefits from its implementation.



### Efficient – and Cost Effective

**SDA** have built a plug-and-play bolt-on service that can help you with all this - and at a fraction of the cost of setting up a system from scratch. You can choose to deploy either generic or bespoke online forms with secure, built-in web services to the ECS with complete confidence. And while cost is, of course, dependant on scale - once you're up and running our pre-configured cloud-based infrastructure keeps maintenance costs down to a minimum. Indeed, the regular checking of ongoing entitlement through our automated web services means that all users can actually save more money than the system costs on top of fulfilling your statutory duties!

Where possible we use Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) data for address lookups to give you the most up-to-date information available (and avoid expensive alternatives). Support and maintenance, as well as initial help and guidance to get you started, is all included.

The service package comes complete with our generic back-office system or, for those who wish to retain their existing arrangements, the system can be quickly configured to provide customised data feeds to your back-office.

We don't charge for that either.

### Security Through and Through

As a trusted contractor to the Department for Education, **SDA's** secure web servers already host a range of sensitive educational data – so there's some practical, real-world assurance. However, we are also, of course, fully and currently certified against the **ISO27001** International Information Security Standard and our systems, processes and people have been stringently audited to meet its exacting requirements. All **SDA's** OFSM staff are Enhanced DBS checked (and cleared).

Your data is safe with us.

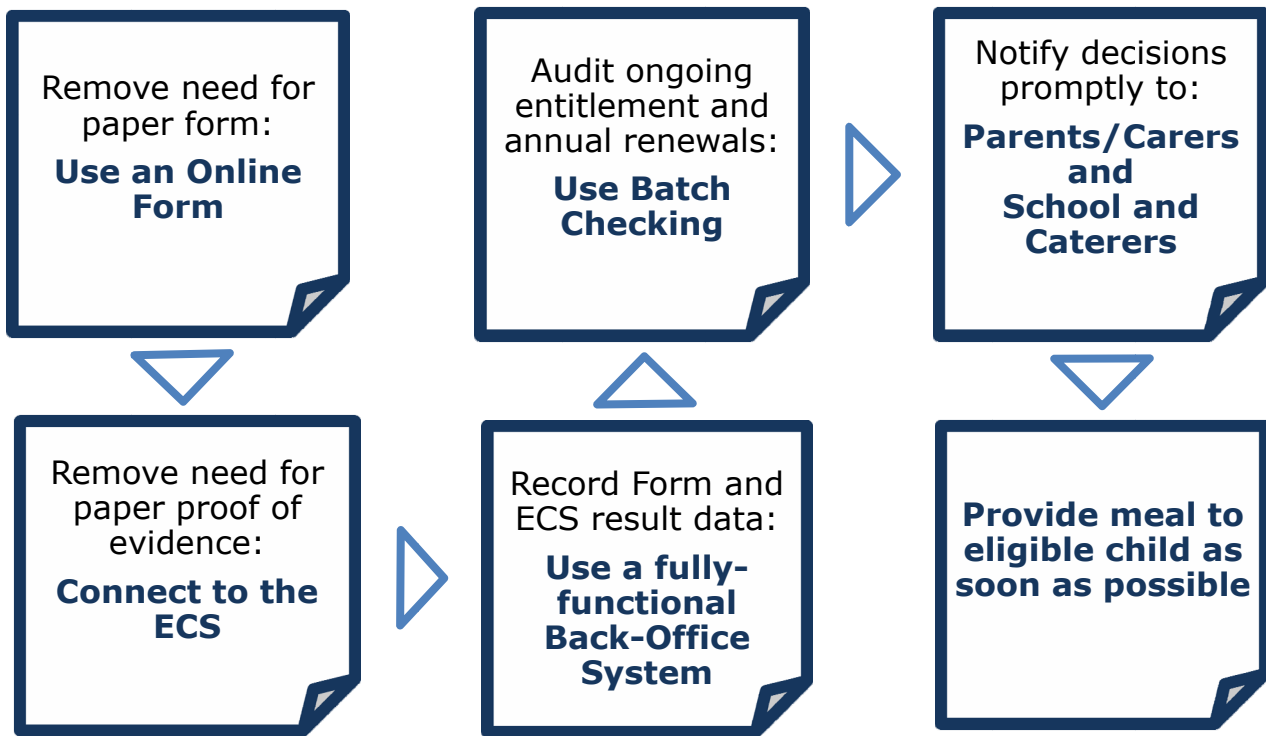


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## Online Free School Meals: Steps to a fully-functioning system



Let **SDA** help you to provide a first-class service.

Find out more at <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/>

Email us at [ofsm@sda-ltd.com](mailto:ofsm@sda-ltd.com)

### But don't just take our word:

"I would just like to say that the service is excellent. It makes the whole procedure so much easier and straight forward. It has reduced our workload and we feel confident that everything is more secure and accurate."

*School Meals Administrator*

"More than happy. Have to say, it's a very welcome change to have a supplier this responsive. Think this is probably the best implementation of our styling that we've had."

*LA Customer Services Team Leader*

"The system has improved efficiency and communication between the LA and schools. School admin officers are very happy with the access to real-time information, and it has simplified our LA process, reducing time spent on checks whilst ensuring their accuracy. We now hope that the online route will encourage more parents of children eligible for free meals, to make sure their children have them."

*LA Catering Services Manager*

"SDA's very reasonable pricing policy made this a no brainer!"

*Local Authority Senior Director*



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