

Free School Meals Information FSM (September 2026)

There are two types of Free School Meals relevant to secondary school students: **Expanded** and **Targeted**

| Criteria | Expanded FSM | Targeted FSM |
|--|--|--|
| Who qualifies | Families in receipt of Universal Credit, household income above £7400 per year | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families in receipt of Universal Credit, household income under £7400 per year Other qualifying benefits Certain immigration statuses. See next page for details. |
| School Meals i.e. Lunch (term time) | Yes | Yes |
| Holiday Activity Food fund support (HAF) | No | Yes , register your child at www.haf-it.co.uk (For students who live in Worcestershire Local Authority areas) |
| Pupil Premium support – each school has its own policy/pledge | No | Yes |
| Subsidised Home to School Transport | No | Possible, if additional criteria are met School and college travel Worcestershire County Council (For students who live in Worcestershire Local Authority areas) |
| How to apply for Free School Meals (FSM) | Apply online: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals | |
| When to apply | From Mid-June | From now |
| Protected status until: | August 2027 , you'll be rechecked each summer for the next academic year | |
| Important note | Our Worcestershire County Council FSM application system will be <i>unavailable</i> July 8th until July 15th 2026 | |

Detailed Eligibility Criteria

Expanded Free School Meals

- You receive Universal Credit with a household income **over £7,400 per year** (over **£616 per month**) after tax (excluding benefits) based on your last 3 months' statements

Targeted Free School Meals – Benefit-based eligibility

- You receive Universal Credit with a household income of **under £7,400 per year** (**under £616 per month**) after tax (excluding benefits) based on your last 3 months' statements
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guaranteed Pension Credit
- Income-based Employment and Support Allowance

Targeted Free School Meals – Immigration-based eligibility

- Zambrano carers
- Families with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) with leave under Article 8
- Families supported under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 with No Recourse to Public Funds
- Certain supported failed asylum seekers (Section 4)
- Chen carers
- BN(O) passport holders
- Spousal, work or student visa holders
- Individuals with no immigration status

Financial criteria for immigration cases

- Annual income of less than **£22,700** for families with 1 child
- Annual income of less than **£26,300** for families with 2 or more children
- Savings must be under **£16,000**