

# Free School Meals Information (September 2026)

There are three types of Free School Meals: Expanded, Targeted and Universal Infant

Criteria	Expanded FSM	Targeted FSM	Universal Infant FSM
<b>Who qualifies</b>	Families in receipt of Universal Credit, household income above £7400 per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families in receipt of Universal Credit, household income under £7400 per year</li> <li>Other qualifying benefits</li> <li>Certain immigration statuses.</li> </ul> See next page for details.	Based on child's school year: Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 where you don't qualify for Expanded or Targeted FSM
<b>Meals (term time)</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Holiday Activity Food fund support (HAF)</b>	No	<b>Yes</b> register your child at <a href="http://www.haf-it.co.uk">www.haf-it.co.uk</a>	No
<b>Pupil Premium support – each school has it's own policy</b>	No	<b>Yes</b>	No
<b>Subsidised Home to school transport</b>	No	<b>Possible, if additional criteria are met</b> <a href="http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/schools-education-and-learning/school-and-college-travel">www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/schools-education-and-learning/school-and-college-travel</a>	No
<b>How to apply</b>	Apply online: <a href="http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals">www.worcestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals</a>		No application needed. Speak to your child's school
<b>When to apply</b>	From Mid June	From now	N/A
<b>Protected status until:</b>	August 2027, you'll be rechecked each summer for the next academic year		Finishes at the end of year 2
<b>Important note</b>	Our application system will be unavailable July 8 <sup>th</sup> until July 15 <sup>th</sup>		

# Detailed Eligibility Criteria

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## 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**