

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
Who qualifies	Families in receipt of Universal Credit, household income above £7400 per year	- Families in receipt of Universal Credit, household income under £7400 per year - Other qualifying benefits - Certain immigration statuses. 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
Meals (term time)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Holiday Activity Food fund support (HAF)	No	Yes register your child at www.haf-it.co.uk	No
Pupil Premium support – each school has it's own policy	No	Yes	No
Subsidised Home to school transport	No	Possible, if additional criteria are met www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/schools-education-and-learning/school-and-college-travel	No
How to apply	Apply online: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals		No application needed. Speak to your child's school
When to apply	From Mid June	From now	N/A
Protected status until:	August 2027, you'll be rechecked each summer for the next academic year		Finishes at the end of year 2
Important note	Our application system will be unavailable July 8 th until July 15 th		

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**