

Many More Families are now entitled to Free School Meals

Apply Now!

[Apply for free school meals: Apply for free school meals \(FSM\) - Warwickshire County Council](#)

- There is no need to reapply if your child is already receiving free school meals.
- There is no need to apply if your child is moving school if both schools are in Warwickshire.
- You must reapply to Warwickshire if your child's previous school was in a different County.

Will my child get Free School Meals?

All children whose parent or carer receives Universal Credit will now be able to get a Free School Meal. Your income will not matter anymore. Before, families could only apply for Free School Meals if their income was below a certain amount. This rule is changing, so more families will now qualify.

More children will have free school meals, but not all will bring extra funding to the school or be entitled to the additional benefits previously linked to free school meals.

Who can get Free School Meals?

Your child may be able to get Free School Meals if your household receives:

- Universal Credit (any income level)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- You meet the rules for families with no recourse to public funds (NRPF)

If you were told before that your income was too high while you were on Universal Credit, this may have changed under the new rules.

Will the school get Pupil Premium funding if my child receives Free School Meals?

Some children will still bring extra Pupil Premium funding to the school, but this will depend on family income. Schools will not get Pupil Premium funding for every child who gets Free School Meals.

Why should I apply?

Free School Meals give your child a healthy meal every school day and can save families around £500 a year.

If your household income is below a certain level, your child's school will also get pupil premium funding to help with teaching, learning and wider opportunities.

Could my child lose their Free School Meals?

Some children may stop getting Free School Meals from September 2026 if their household no longer meets any of the eligibility rules when checks are done.

This might include families who:

- no longer receive Universal Credit, or
- no longer receive any of the other qualifying benefits.