



MORE FAMILIES CAN GET FREE SCHOOL MEALS

FROM SEPTEMBER 2026

Every child deserves the chance to thrive.
A few minutes today could make a big difference.

Could your
child be
eligible?

- ✓ You receive Universal Credit
- ✓ Your child is in school
- ✓ You **apply!**



From September 2026, **all children** whose parent or carer **receives Universal Credit** will be able to get a free school meal every day at school.

Even if you have checked before and were not eligible, it is worth checking again.

Understanding the Two Types of Support

1 FREE SCHOOL MEALS



From September 2026, many more families receiving Universal Credit will qualify for free school meals.

This means your child can receive a free lunch each school day.



At our school, free school meal payments are loaded automatically onto your child's account. They simply pay for their meal using their thumb print – no cash, no card, no one will know.

No stigma. Just a simple, discreet system.

2 ADDITIONAL SCHOOL SUPPORT (PUPIL PREMIUM)



Some families who qualify for free school meals may also qualify for extra funding called Pupil Premium.

This funding helps our school remove barriers to learning and ensure every student has the same opportunities to succeed.

At our school, this support may help with:



Educational visits & trips



School uniform



Revision guides & resources



Ingredients & materials for Food & Nutrition



Equipment needed for learning



Other costs linked to access to the curriculum

WHAT'S CHANGING?

BEFORE SEPTEMBER 2026



Only some families receiving Universal Credit qualified for free school meals.

Those who qualified could also receive Pupil Premium support through school.



FROM SEPTEMBER 2026

More families receiving Universal Credit will qualify for free school meals.

However, not everyone who receives free school meals will automatically qualify for Pupil Premium support.



Some families will receive:
FREE SCHOOL MEALS



Some families will receive:
**FREE SCHOOL MEALS
+ PUPIL PREMIUM SUPPORT**

PLEASE APPLY EVEN IF...

- ✓ Your child sometimes brings a packed lunch.
- ✓ You are unsure whether you qualify.
- ✓ Your child does not want a school meal every day.
- ✓ You have never been eligible before.

Applying helps your child and helps our school provide more support.



HELP YOUR CHILD & SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL

Applying for free school meals helps your child access extra support and opportunities at school.

It also helps our school secure more funding to provide resources, pastoral support and enrich learning for all students.



SCAN ME!



APPLY TODAY – IT'S QUICK, EASY & CONFIDENTIAL

Apply online in a few minutes by scanning the QR code or visiting the link below:
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/schools-education-and-learning/free-school-meals/apply-free-school-meals

- ✓ It only takes a few minutes.
- ✓ Your application is confidential.
- ✓ It could save you money.
- ✓ It could provide extra support for your child.

Thank you for supporting your child and our school community!

Need help?



office@hanleycastlehs.org.uk



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www.hanleycastle.worcs.sch.uk