



Studley St. Mary's C. of E. Academy

Walking alongside to live life in all its fullness
'Let us run the race that is before us, and never give up' Hebrews 21:1

Headteacher: Mr A Clark

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New Road, Studley
Warwickshire. B80 7ND
Tel: 01527 852153

July 2026

Dear parent/carer,

Re: expanded free school meal (FSM) eligibility and the pupil premium

Your child may newly qualify for free school meals, and we want to encourage you to register them.

From September 2026, **all pupils in households receiving Universal Credit are eligible for free school meals**. Your household income doesn't matter – as long as you receive Universal Credit, your child can claim free school meals. We strongly encourage you to check if you're eligible under the new criteria. See below for more information on how to check if your child qualifies.

Why register for free school meals?

Pupils who are registered for free school meals will get healthy, nutritious and balanced food at school that helps make sure they're ready to learn and thrive at school.

Registering your child for free school meals is also important because **the school might get extra 'pupil premium' funding from the government as a result** – for each eligible pupil, the school will get an extra **£1,550** in pupil premium funding in 2026/27.

If you prefer your child to have packed lunches, don't worry – they can still have this if they're registered for free school meals.

You can find more information about pupil premium on our website at [Studley St Mary's Church of England Academy - Home](#)

Is my child eligible for free school meals and the pupil premium?

From September 2026, there will be 2 categories of free school meals:

Targeted FSM – your child may be eligible if you receive:

- Universal Credit **and** have an annual household income of **£7,400 or less**
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit

Your child might also qualify if you have no recourse to public funds (NRPF).



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Pupils receiving targeted FSM:

- Can receive free school meals
- Will attract pupil premium funding for the school
- May be eligible for other support, such as the Holiday Activities and Food programme. [Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) programme - Warwickshire County Council](#)

Expanded FSM – your child is eligible if you receive:

- Universal Credit **and** have an annual household income of **over £7,400**

Pupils receiving expanded FSM:

- Can receive free school meals
- Will not attract pupil premium funding for the school, nor be eligible for other support that's based on targeted FSM

What should I do next?

If your child is currently eligible for free school meals, you do not need to do anything. Warwickshire will re-check the eligibility of all currently eligible children and will contact you over the summer holidays to let you know if your child will still be eligible for free school meals for the 2026/27 school year (and which category they fall into), or whether more information from you is needed to check this.

If your child has never received free school meals before, then you will be able to apply via a form on the Warwickshire Free School Meals website page at the beginning of August 2026. Once you have applied for free school meals, if your child is eligible, they will remain eligible for that whole school year, regardless of any changes to your circumstances.

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

For information on registering for free school meals if you are a household with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), see the Warwickshire Free School Meals website – link above.

More information

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Studley, St Mary's CE Academy 01527 852153 or school.office@studleystmarys.covmat.org

You can also find more information at www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals.

Best wishes,

Mr A Clark
Head Teacher



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