



Holy Family Catholic High School

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Headteacher: Mr M Symes BA(Hons), NPQH

Wednesday, 08 July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to inform you of important upcoming changes to the Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility criteria, which may affect some families.

The Government has introduced a revised system which creates two categories of Free School Meals:

1. Targeted Free School Meals

This reflects the current eligibility criteria, based on the existing income threshold. You may qualify if:

- You get Universal Credit and your household income is £7,400 or less per year, or
- You get support through the Immigration and Asylum Act (1999), or
- You get income-related Employment and Support Allowance, or
- You get the guaranteed part of Pension Credit, or
- You have no recourse to public funds (NRPF)

Children who qualify under this category will continue to receive:

- A free school meal
- Pupil Premium (additional funding for schools)
- Access to Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programmes
- Other income-related benefits

The school also provides financial help and support for pupils in receipt of Targeted Free School Meals as follows:

- Tie/badge and apron (free)
- Holy Family School Bus (subsidy)
- PE kit (50% subsidy)
- Music Tuition (50% subsidy)
- Food /Design Technology (free resources)
- Revision guides (free)
- Essential Curriculum Trip (free)

If your child currently receives FSM's, you do not need to reapply.

2. Expanded Free School Meals

This is a new category for families receiving Universal Credit with an income above £7,400. Children eligible under this category will receive:

- A free school meal

However, please note that this category does not include Pupil Premium, HAF, or any additional benefits.

What happens next?

- The Free School Meals team is currently reviewing all existing FSM registrations.
- From next week, families across Sefton will be encouraged to apply if they may now qualify under the expanded criteria.
- New applications under the expanded scheme will be processed after the summer break, while priority is given to those eligible under the targeted criteria.
- At the end of August, schools will be provided with updated lists showing which pupils are eligible and under which category.

We expect that:

- Some pupils may move from the current system into the new expanded category.
- Some families who have not previously applied may now become eligible.

Summer Holiday Vouchers

Vouchers for the summer holiday period will continue to be based on the current group of children eligible for Free School Meals.

Arrangements for the 2026/27 academic year have not yet been confirmed, and we will update you as soon as further information becomes available.

What you need to do

We encourage all families to:

- Read the attached information carefully.
- Visit the [Department for Education](#) and [Sefton Council websites](#) for further guidance.
- Apply if you believe you may now be eligible at <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>

If you have any questions or need support with your application, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr W. Nutman
Senior Leader for Progress