



# 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)

**NOTE: If your child has Free School Meals in primary school, you do not need to reply, this will be transferred over to Holy Family in September.**

## 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