

SS/KD/FSM

26<sup>th</sup> June 2026



**Bloxwich Academy**  
'Be The Best You Can Be'

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may be aware from September 2026 there are some changes to the way that **free school meals** funding is being allocated to families. This letter and the attached poster from the local authority, provides further information on the changes and clarifies whether there is anything as parents/ carers that you need to inform us of. We would encourage all parents/carers to read the information below if you believe your child may be eligible or is already in receipt of Free School Meals.

**If you are currently in receipt of free school meals, you do not need to inform us of this as your details will be checked by the local authority against the new criteria. If you believe you may now be eligible but do not currently receive FSM, please contact us in school via [primarypostbox@bloxwichacademy.co.uk](mailto:primarypostbox@bloxwichacademy.co.uk) or call the office on 01922 710226.**

From September 2026, there will be **two categories of free school meals** applicable for secondary school pupils.

**Targeted free school meals:** these pupils will meet the following criteria and will also be eligible for additional Pupil Premium funding:

- Children and young people in families receiving Universal Credit with annual household income under £7,400 (£616.67/month)
- Families with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) – subject to separate criteria

**In school this will mean that as well as free breakfast from 7.45am (available to all pupils) and their daily allowance at break and lunch time, pupils eligible for targeted free school meals will also be able to allocate additional funding to support with specific equipment, trips and visits and free place on the HAF programme.**

**Expanded free school meals:** this is a new category from September 2026. Pupils eligible for the new expanded free school meals will meet the following criteria but will not be eligible for additional Pupil Premium funding.

- Children and young people in families receiving Universal Credit
- No limit on annual household income, but the above criteria must be met.

In school this will mean that pupils will be able to access free breakfast from 7.45am available to all and a daily allowance at break and lunch time.

Further information can be found here: [Expanding free school meals: what parents need to know – The Education Hub](#)

Bloxwich Academy Primary  
Bloxwich Lane  
Bloxwich, Walsall  
West Midlands  
WS2 7JT



01922 710 226   
Bloxwich Academy   
@bloxwich\_academy   
[primarypostbox@bloxwichacademy.co.uk](mailto:primarypostbox@bloxwichacademy.co.uk) 

We would also like to share some information from Walsall Council regarding support for families who are currently in receipt of FSM/ Pupil Premium funding via the **Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme**. Walsall's **HAF (Holiday Activities and Food)** programme is a government-funded initiative that provides free holiday clubs, enriching activities, and nutritious meals to children and young people during the school breaks (Easter, Summer and Christmas)

- Parents and carers can register and make bookings by visiting: <https://haf.walsall.gov.uk/Registration>

The activities are free to attend for:

- Pupils eligible for benefit-related **Free School Meals**
- Children supported by a **social worker or family worker**
- Children with an **EHCP**

If you have any questions or queries or need help in regard to the information in this letter, please contact the school on 01922 710226 or email via [primarypostbox@bloxwichacademy.co.uk](mailto:primarypostbox@bloxwichacademy.co.uk).

Kind regards,



Sue Shepherd

(Headteacher)  
Bloxwich Academy Primary



Bloxwich Academy Primary  
Bloxwich Lane  
Bloxwich, Walsall  
West Midlands  
WS2 7JT



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@bloxwich\_academy



[primarypostbox@bloxwichacademy.co.uk](mailto:primarypostbox@bloxwichacademy.co.uk)

