

KH/LB/TM/FSM

29th June 2026

Dear Parent/Carers,



Barr Beacon School

www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk

Free School Meals

As you may be aware, from September 2026 there will be changes to the way free school meals are allocated to families. We encourage all parents and carers to read the information below if you believe your child may be eligible, or if they are already receiving free school meals.

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

Pupils who meet the following criteria will be eligible for Targeted Free School Meals and will also attract additional Pupil Premium funding for the school:

- Children and young people in families receiving Universal Credit with an annual household income of less than £7,400 (£616.67 per month).
- Families with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), subject to separate eligibility criteria.

Expanded Free School Meals, this is a new category being introduced from September 2026. Pupils eligible for Expanded Free School Meals will receive free school meals but will not attract additional Pupil Premium funding.

Eligibility criteria:

- Children and young people in families receiving Universal Credit.
- There is no annual household income limit, provided the above criterion is met.

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

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 applications can be made via [Free School Meals - Barr Beacon School](#)

We would also like to share some information from Walsall Council regarding free support for families who are currently in receipt of FSM/ Pupil Premium funding via the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme. The Walsall Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme offers eligible children free, fun and enriching activities, healthy meals, and opportunities to stay active, make friends, and learn new skills during the summer holidays. The programme will run for four weeks, starting on Monday 3 August 2026 and finishing on Friday 28 August 2026. Parents and carers can make bookings by visiting: [Log in - Walsall Council](#)

Additional travel support is available for some low-income families through both Walsall Council and Birmingham City Council. We encourage all eligible families to check whether they qualify and apply through their home local authority.

- Walsall Council: <https://go.walsall.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/home-school-transport>
- Birmingham City Council: https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50052/school_travel

In order to support all families in school, we are collating more detailed information from parents and carers to ensure that all pupils and their families have access to the support they need.



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Please take a few minutes to complete our Parent/Carer Information Questionnaire. The information you provide will help us better understand your family's needs and ensure we can offer the most appropriate support and signpost you to relevant services where needed.

[Parent/Carer Information Questionnaire – Complete the form](#)

If you have any questions or queries regarding the information in this letter, please contact the school via postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk

Yours sincerely,



Mrs K Hibbs
Headteacher



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