

Free School Meals (FSM) – The Hart School

At The Hart School, students joining in Year 7 or currently attending in Years 7–13 may be eligible for income-based Free School Meals (FSM) if their household meets the criteria set by Staffordshire County Council.

Types of Free School Meals relevant to secondary students

For students at The Hart School, the relevant provision is **income based (benefits-related) Free School Meals**. From September 2026, there are two categories.

Targeted FSM applies to families receiving certain benefits, including Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, or the guarantee element of Pension Credit

Expanded FSM will apply from September 2026 to families receiving Universal Credit with earnings above £7,400, widening eligibility to more households

Eligibility criteria

Students aged 11–16 at The Hart School may qualify if their parent or carer receives one or more of the following

- Universal Credit (meeting the relevant income rules depending on category)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit

Some families with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) may also be eligible depending on immigration status and income thresholds, but this requires a separate application route

How to apply

Applications are made directly to Staffordshire County Council and must be completed online if you meet the low-income criteria

Apply using the official form:

- <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/financial-support-school/free-school-meals/applying-free-school-meals>

To complete the application, you will need

- Your National Insurance number (or NASS number)
- Basic details about your child and household

If you cannot apply online, call 0300 111 8007 then select option 3 followed by option 2.

Once submitted

- Eligibility is checked using a national system and the school will be informed directly however this can take a few days to come through to the school. If

you email a copy of the confirmation to the school we will aim to action FSM to begin as soon as possible.

Important information for families joining The Hart School from primary

If your child is joining The Hart School in Year 7 and already receives free school meals at their previous Staffordshire school, you will not normally need to reapply, as the claim can transfer automatically (subject to eligibility checks).

However, if your child is at one of the following schools you will need to make an application as they do not use SCC to handle their FSM entitlement: Chase View Primary, Forest Hills Primary and Redbrook Hayes Primary. A full list of affected schools can be found on the SCC FSM Frequently Asked Questions page: [Frequently asked questions - Free school meals | Free school meals | Staffordshire County Council](#)

Applying for FSM can also help the school access additional funding to support your child's education if your child qualifies for Targeted FSMs.

If you need help with your application, please contact Staffordshire County Council directly either via their website or on 0300 111 8007 followed by option 3 and then option 2.