



January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

We are writing to inform you that the Government gives additional funding to schools to help improve the achievement of some groups of pupils. If you feel that your child might meet the criteria, details of how to register are listed below.

What is Pupil Premium Funding?

Pupil Premium Funding from the Government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. It is provided for pupils who meet any one of the following criteria:

- Are registered for free school meals.
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years.
- Are, or have been, in care.
- Have a parent in the Armed Forces.

At Westacre Middle School, we get additional funding for every eligible pupil who is registered for free school meals. This extra money could make a real difference to the quality of education we offer to all students.

For example, we have previously used Pupil Premium Funding for:

- Educational provision/resources
- Academic interventions
- Wellbeing and self-esteem building interventions.

Is my child eligible for Free School Meals (FSM)?

Your child might be eligible for free school meals if you access:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)

Westacre Middle School • Ombersley Way • Droitwich • WR9 0AA
Telephone: 01905 772795

Email: office@westacre.worcs.sch.uk
www.westacre-middle-school.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs D M Evans



- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

Your child might also be eligible if you are in a household with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), subject to a maximum income threshold. This is for children of:

- Zambrano and Chen carers (non-EEA nationals caring for a British citizen residing in the UK)
- British National (Overseas) passport holders
- Spousal visa, work visa, or student visa holders
- Those with no immigration status
- Families with a right to remain in the UK under Article 8 of the European Convention of Human
- Families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 who are subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction
- Certain failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

For the most up to date eligibility criteria, this information is also available at [Apply for free school meals | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Does my child have to eat the Free School Meals?

No. Pupils who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them. If you are eligible but you want your child to have packed lunches instead you should still register because the school will receive the funding which can support your child in other ways.

How do I register?

To register, visit [Apply for free school meals | Worcestershire County Council](#) where you can apply online, or via telephone to their customer service team.

What if I live in a different Local Authority?

You need to register through Worcestershire County Council because that is local authority of our school.

My child already receives FSM. Do I need to reapply?

Due to the delay in the roll out of universal credit, and therefore potentially an extension to the transitional protection, as it stands, you will NOT need to reapply. We, and your local council, will write to you should this change.

Westacre Middle School • Ombersley Way • Droitwich • WR9 0AA
Telephone: 01905 772795

Email: office@westacre.worcs.sch.uk
www.westacre-middle-school.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs D M Evans



What are the other Pupil Premium categories?

Your child may not necessarily meet the criteria to receive FSM but may still be classified as Pupil Premium. This includes children who:

- Have been adopted from care or have left care.
- Children who are looked after by the local authority.
- Have one/or more of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces (including pupils with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full-time reserve service, and also pupils whose parent is serving in the armed forces of another nation and is formally stationed in England)
- Have previously been registered as a 'service child' in any school in the last 6 years.
- Have had one of their parents die whilst serving in the armed forces, and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme.

If any of the 'Other Pupil Premium categories' apply to your child, please inform the school via office@westacre.worcs.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

D Evans

Mrs D Evans
Headteacher