

Dear Worcestershire Schools,

We would like to inform you of an important update regarding the Free School Meals holiday vouchers for the coming financial year (2025/2026).

On 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025, the Government confirmed the details of the Household Support Fund for 2025/2026 financial year. This included a budget reduction of around £1million for Worcestershire and a change in the guidance to give two clear areas that the fund should support:

- a. Crisis support
- b. Preventative activity

The requirement for councils to report on the money spent on free school meal vouchers in school holidays has also been removed and replaced with more reporting requirements on preventative activity.

All previously funded Household Support Fund activity has been reviewed, with budgets having to decrease across all key programmes. Therefore, the previous allocation of £3 per day per FSM eligible child (Reception to Year 11) will no longer be in place.

The holiday allocations for the remainder of this academic year are as follows:

Easter Holidays	£15
May Half Term	£10
Summer Holidays	£60

Schools will be consulted before the end of the summer term to shape the plans for September through to March 2026.

We understand that this reduction may impact some families, and we appreciate your understanding and co-operation as these changes come into effect. We encourage schools to ensure that families are made aware of the revised voucher value in advance to manage expectations.

In addition, we would like to highlight that other local support is available to families including:

[Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) Programme](#)

- Additional support schemes funded through the Household Support Fund (HSF) which will open during April. Information will be on the council [HSF webpage](#).
- For broader support regarding the cost of living, please encourage parents and carers to visit the council [Cost of Living Support webpage](#)

It is important for schools to adhere to this revised voucher allocation. As with all previous schemes, schools will be recharged for any overspend above the expected spend, in line with the number of children receiving FSM.

We will contact you in the next few days regarding the opening and closing dates of the portal for the Easter holidays.

We appreciate your continued support in ensuring that these provisions are delivered effectively to families in need, and we are here to assist should you have any questions or require further clarification, please contact at [FSMHolidayVouchers@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:FSMHolidayVouchers@worcestershire.gov.uk).

Kind regards,

Free School Meal Holiday Vouchers

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