



6 May 2026

Dear Parent / Carer

Free School Meal (FSM) Vouchers Update – Cancellation of Automatic Vouchers

Your FSM vouchers are currently provided under the Household Support Fund (HSF) (Government grant funding) administered by Northumberland County Council on behalf of the Department for Work and pensions (DWP). The HSF came to an end on 31st March 2026.

The HSF is being replaced by a new Local Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) which will consolidate a number of existing national welfare schemes. The CRF is classified as a new grant funded scheme with new funding criteria and outcomes. The blanket provision of FREE School Meal Vouchers in the school holidays will not continue under the new scheme as directed by the Department for Education (DfE) and the DWP.

CRF is classified by DWP as an emergency Local Welfare Provision and therefore any household in financial crisis can apply for assistance with emergency relief towards Food, Energy and Water similar to previous schemes. The Council will still support families on a needs-based basis to understand the relative need of support, and this will be done through an application process. Further information was made available on a dedicated CRF webpage from 1st April 2026

We are therefore advising you of the withdrawal of the HSF payment and encourage the take up of Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) provision. The last voucher available from NCC for FSM entitled pupils was given out during the Easter 2026 school holidays (03/04/26 - 20/04/26).

Support to children and families through the school holidays will continue through the HAF scheme. Northumberland Holiday Provision information can be found online on the Northumberland County Council website, alternatively use Ctrl+Click on the following link: [Northumberland Holiday Provision](#)
[Northumberland County Council](#)

Any further support can be received from the Northumberland County Council, who can assist with welfare and financial support. Contact details can be found [here](#).

Yours sincerely

L Hall

Miss L Hall
Executive Headteacher