



## Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

May 2021

### Free School Meals (FSM) – Frequently Asked Questions

Please find below a range of information in response to frequently asked questions.

**1. How can I check if my child is eligible for FSM and how do I apply?**

This information is available at:

[https://go.walsall.gov.uk/schools\\_and\\_learning/schools\\_in\\_walsall/school\\_meals/free\\_school\\_meals](https://go.walsall.gov.uk/schools_and_learning/schools_in_walsall/school_meals/free_school_meals)

**2. Which Local Authority do I apply to?**

You can apply to Walsall Council if your child attends a school within Walsall Borough regardless of whether you live inside or outside of the borough. Please use the link above. If you live in Walsall but your child attends a school outside of the borough you will need to apply to the local authority the school is in.

**3. My child was eligible for FSM at their previous school will my child be automatically eligible for FSM at Queen Mary's Grammar School?**

No this information does not automatically transfer, you will need to make a new application as above. This includes Year 7 and 6<sup>th</sup> Form admissions.

**4. My son/daughter is transitioning into Queen Mary's Grammar School 6<sup>th</sup> Form, are they eligible for FSM?**

FSM are available to 6<sup>th</sup> Form students, please see Q1 on how to check eligibility and apply.

**5. What is the daily allowance amount?**

It is £3, the best value is a lunch meal deal. Items can be purchased individually however this may result in you exceeding the daily allowance of £3 so your child needs to check the costs.

**6. Can I use the daily allowance on drinks?**

Yes, but only as part of your meal deal or when buying lunch food items. The allowance cannot be used just for the purchase of drinks, it is provided for a meal.

**7. Can I use the daily allowance for breaktime?**

No it should be used for lunch. If used for breaktime there may not be enough funds for lunch.

**8. Can I spend more than the daily allowance?**

Yes, but you must pay the money onto your account to do this.

**9. Can the daily balance be accrued and carried over?**

Any balance that is unused does not get carried over to the next day.

**10. How can I check the balance and/or pay money on the account?**

Use our school online payment system, please contact [finance@the.merciantrust.org](mailto:finance@the.merciantrust.org) if you have any issues accessing the system.

**11. How can I check the purchase history?**

Use our school online payment system, please contact [finance@the.merciantrust.org](mailto:finance@the.merciantrust.org) if you have any issues accessing the system.

**12. I can't afford meals for my children during school holidays. Can the school help?**

Under normal circumstances, schools do not provide free school meals to eligible children who are not in school. However, schools are led by DfE guidance, as we saw during Covid lockdown the DfE instructed us to provide vouchers during these challenging times. The school will continue to follow DfE guidance.

**13. I been notified that I do not qualify for FSM, but I still need help, what can I do?**

Walsall Council are working closely with a number of partner organisations in order to provide support to families. You can contact Making Connections by emailing: [COVID19communityhelp@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:COVID19communityhelp@walsall.gov.uk) or by calling 0121 380 6690. They will allocate your case to one of the four locality hubs who will arrange to contact you to discuss your needs. They will be able to provide practical help and refer you to the Trussell Trust and Black Country Food Banks locally


**14. Who do I speak to with a query?**

For application queries email [freeschoolmeals@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk)

For Queen Mary's Grammar School related queries please contact The Mercian Trust [fsm@merciantrust.org](mailto:fsm@merciantrust.org)

Please include your child's name, form, date of birth and the nature of the query.

Yours sincerely



Richard Langton  
Headmaster