

"I am able to do all things by
the one who strengthens me"

Philippians 4:13
Lexham English Bible



C.E CONTROLLED
PRIMARY SCHOOL
Mrs Sarah Briggs
Headteacher
BEEd (Hons) NPQH

Growing, Believing, Succeeding

Dear Parents,

Derbyshire Catering Service has reluctantly made the difficult decision to increase the charge to schools for a paid school meal. This decision has been taken in the face of rising costs, and to avoid considerable losses by the Authority. The increase will affect parents and carers who pay for school meals.

As a result, the price of a school meal will increase from £2.30 per meal from September 2023 to £3.25.

This change will not affect those who are entitled to free school meals through the Universal Free School Meals programme in Reception and in years 1 and 2. It will also not affect children in Key Stage 2 who have access to free school meals. If you are unsure about your eligibility for this, please visit derbyshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Incidentally, if your family would be entitled to free school meals but you have chosen not to make an application, there are many benefits to making an application and we would encourage you to do so.

I have attached a list of frequently asked questions regarding the increase, if you have any further questions please contact me.

Regards,

Victoria Lindsay
School Business Officer



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FAQ's: School Meal Price Increase

How much is the price increase?

Prices will increase from September 2023 on the recommended primary paid meal charge to parents and carers by 95p to £3.25.

Why is the price increasing?

Like other local authorities and catering services across the country, the council's school catering service has been significantly affected by inflation and other factors* driving up the cost of food and staffing. The increase of 95p has been calculated to solely cover increased costs as the service is not for profit. If any surplus is generated, it will be reinvested into the catering service to deliver improvements.

- labour costs incurred by the Service increased by approximately £1.28m due to a pay increase of £1,925 on all NJC pay points 1 and above with effect from 1 April 2022
- the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation was reported at 10.1% in the 12 months to March 2023
- Official figures show food and non-alcoholic drink inflation reached 19.1% in March 2023.

*Including but not limited to supply chain disruption set off by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, bad weather affecting harvests, and Brexit trade barriers.

Who will it affect?

It will affect families who currently pay for their school meals in schools where we provide the catering service. The increase will not affect families of Key Stage One pupils, who receive free school meals under the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme or families of primary or secondary pupils who are eligible for benefit-related free school meals.

Families can check their eligibility for free school meals at derbyshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

When will the price rise be applied?

From the start of term in September 2023.

How can families get support with the cost of living?

Families can get support and advice at derbyshire.gov.uk/costofliving, this includes:

- Finding out if their eligible for free school meals
- Support with council tax costs
- Household Support Fund grants
- Apply for funded childcare

Families can also access the Holiday Activity Fund activities via Streetgames and may be eligible for free meals at activities in the summer holidays - It's about me | Welcome (itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk)

