Finance & Customer Services

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Email the Council for free @ your local library!

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| Our Ref: | Please Contact: | Telephone Number: |
| Primary Maintained Meals | Riverside Catering | 01709 822312 |

**12 August 2025**

FAO Headteacher/Business Manager

Dear Colleague

School Meal Prices September 2025

I’m writing to inform you of an important update regarding the school meal services provided by Riverside Catering.

Due to rising costs in ingredients, National Insurance contributions, and overall operational expenses, we are in the position where a price increase is necessary. This decision has not been made lightly. We have carefully explored all possible options to avoid this outcome, but to continue delivering high-quality, nutritious meals for pupils, an adjustment in pricing is essential.

We understand that any increase in costs can be challenging. However, the revised pricing reflects not only the increased cost of food and staffing but also our continued investment in the quality and reliability of our service. The price includes a comprehensive package of support services designed to ease the operational burden on schools. These include:

* Ongoing support from our dedicated head office team
* Prompt repairs to kitchen equipment
* Commercial waste collection
* Full IT support
* Regular PAT testing and gas servicing
* Purchase of consumables and catering equipment.

These services are integral to maintaining a safe, efficient, and high-standard catering environment for your pupils.

The Council subsidised the provision of meals by £916k during the previous financial year and expects to subsidise the cost by over £600k this year to help mitigate the impact on schools and families.

Effective from **1 September 2025,** the new prices will be:

* Primary Pupil Meals: £3.40
* Adult Meals: £3.95
* Teacher Specials: £3.70.

Please note that these are the charges Riverside Catering will apply to schools, and not necessarily the prices schools may choose to charge parents or carers.

We remain committed to ensuring that all students have access to healthy, balanced meals. If you have any questions or require further assistance, please don’t hesitate to contact the Riverside Catering team.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support as we work together to provide the best possible service for our children.

Yours faithfully

David Snook

pp Kevin Miller

Head of Facilities Management & Compliance