

9th July 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Increase in School Meal Charges from September 2024

We are writing to inform you that we are increasing the cost of school meals with effect from 1st September 2024. The cost of a meal from this date will be £1.50.

The cost of living has risen significantly in recent years for everyone, including a sharp increase in food prices. We understand that this is likely to be affecting your household budgets and unfortunately this has significantly impacted our school catering budgets.

More expensive food, gas and electricity, and more expensive staff costs, means that we have to take the difficult decision to raise prices. We have explored all possible cost-saving measures before taking this decision and will continue to do so.

Primary schools who are a part of Thrive did not increase their prices when other schools did in 2019. We kept our prices at £1 when all other Hull schools raised their prices to £1.50. The Local Authority provides a subsidy of £0.80 per meal but with the average cost of providing a meal at £3.00 we have a shortfall of £0.70 per meal which we can no longer sustain from our school budgets.

We understand this news may pose challenges for some families and we would encourage you to check if your child qualifies for free school meals.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- *Income Support*
- *income-based Jobseeker's Allowance*
- *income-related Employment and Support Allowance*
- *support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*
- *the guaranteed element of Pension Credit*
- *Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)*
- *Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit*
- *Universal Credit – if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)*

You can apply for Free School Meals by completing a short application form. This is available from the school office or you can download from the school website. You can also apply online with Hull City Council directly using the link below.

<https://www.hull.gov.uk/schools-2/free-school-meals>

If you have any queries regarding this, please, do not hesitate to contact your school's Headteacher.

Yours sincerely



Paula Saleh
Chief Financial Officer

