



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Aspens Services provides the catering services to all schools and academies across the Lighthouse Schools Partnership. Aspens is dedicated to creating menus which are nutritional, varied and representative of our pupil population and the menus feature a broad selection of meal options, including vegetarian and vegan choices, school meal favourites as well as meals inspired by different cultures.

Meal Pricing

You may be aware that the price of our school meals is currently £2.80, following a review the meal price will be moving to £2.85 from 20 April 2026. We understand that any increase in expenses can be a concern for families and we want to assure you that this decision followed careful consideration, recognition of the steady rise in food inflation and a thorough review of operating costs.

There will be no change to the meal ordering process and the online ordering systems will automatically reflect the price increase.

Free School Meals

You may be eligible for Free School Meals for your child(ren) if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided they were not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and had an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs)
- 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 1st April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits)

Registering for Free School Meals is a Quick and Easy Process

Please note that the eligibility criteria will change in September 2026. This means many more families will qualify for free school meals, as all households receiving [Universal Credit](#), above the current £7,400 income cap will qualify for this support.

You can apply online by visiting: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>. If you are unable to complete the form online, please visit the school office, and a member of our office team will provide you with the necessary support. Please be assured that your application will be treated with the utmost confidentiality, and it will not affect any other benefits you may be receiving.

If you have any questions, concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.