

Update: School Meal Pricing 2022-23

Key Messages

Following previous discussion at the Schools Forum on 28 June 2022, this information paper confirms the meal prices for schools in the council's central catering contract from September 2022.

1. Introduction/background

- 1.1. A paper presented at the last Schools Forum confirmed that the primary contract price is to rise by 15p, and the secondary (FSM notional) price by 14p:

	Previous contract price (2020-21 academic year)	Year 1 of current contract (2021-22 academic year)	Year 2 of current contract (2022-23 academic year)
Primary	£2.30	£2.05	£2.20
Secondary	£2.36	£2.10	£2.24

Due to Universal Infant Free School Meals, the paid primary meals relate only to KS2 children (who are not eligible for low income FSM).

In addition, Nursery meal costs remain unchanged at £1.75.

- 1.2. The price to parents in KS2 had been held at £2.00/meal since 2016, with schools funding the difference. This is not charged directly, but is factored into the annual charge to schools in the catering contract. Following discussion at the Forum, it was agreed that all schools within the catering contract should be consulted, with options of remaining at a cost of £2.00 to parents, increasing to £2.10, or to the full contract price of £2.20

2. Outcome

- 2.1 Schools were given a little over a week to respond – less time than would usually be given, but there was an urgency around finalising the price to parents before the end of the summer term.
- 2.2 24 schools responded, and responses were equally spread across the three options. Consequently, it was decided to maintain the status quo, with the cost to parents of KS2 children attending schools within the central catering contract remaining at £2.00 for academic year 2022-23.

- 2.3 This was communicated in July to all settings across the city, as there is an interest from schools who are not part of the central contract.

3. Going forward

- 3.1 In future years, any potential changes to the KS2 price to parents will be presented to schools in a similar manner. It is however acknowledged that this needs to happen much earlier in the school year – any such future discussions/consultation with schools on this issue will be scheduled no later than March/April.