



10 February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to notify parents of primary children of an increase in the cost of a school meal at Appleton Academy from Monday 23 February 2026.

We know that many families within our school community worry about the rising costs of living. We have worked hard with our catering partner, Aspens, to ensure that costs remain as low as possible and have implemented very few price rises in the last 5 years. However, regrettably, due to continuing increases in costs of product supplies being faced by companies in the school meal sector, it is necessary to increase the cost of a primary school meal at this time.

The price increase has been capped at the lowest possible amount, as school will continue to subsidise the cost of school meals for children attending Appleton Academy. The cost of our school meals also remains below the price charged by most other schools in Bradford.

- For Appleton Academy primary meals, the current cost of a school meal is £2.35
- From 23 February 2026, this will increase to £2.55

#### **Are you eligible for Free School Meals?**

We want to support our families in any way that we can and so if your circumstances have changed, or perhaps you haven't done it previously, and you would like to check if your child qualifies for free school meals, please contact school or our Parental Involvement Officer, Emily Chesterman. Colleagues can help you check your eligibility and provide you with the relevant paperwork to complete to apply for free school meals. Alternatively, you can do this yourself via the Bradford Council website:

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/benefits/applying-for-benefits/free-school-meals/>

You can apply for school meals if you receive:

- Income Support or Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit with an annual income of less than £16,190, provided they are not receiving Working Tax Credit
- the 'Guaranteed' element of the State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income threshold of less than £7,400

Whilst all children in Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 receive a free school meal, it is still important to check if you are eligible. We would also like to assure parents that our school systems operate in such a way that children accessing free school meals are not identifiable to others, which we know can be a concern for some parents who worry that children may in some way be stigmatised due to their eligibility.

If you have any questions or you would like to discuss this issue further, please don't hesitate to contact us by emailing [info@appletonacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@appletonacademy.co.uk) in the first instance.

Yours faithfully

*Helen Jones*

Ms H Jones  
Executive Headteacher