



School Dinners

From 1st September 2024 school meals will cost £14.75 per week (£2.95 per day.)

School Dinners are provided by our Catering Team, through St Helens Council. Pupils have access to healthy, balanced, and nutritious meals each day including a vegetarian option and a selection of fruit, yogurt, and juice.

The increase will not impact on the eligibility to access free school meals for those families in receipt of the relevant qualifying benefits.

The cost of a school dinner is £2.95 per day (£14.75 per week). Payments should be made in person or by your child to the school office each Monday morning. Please ensure payments are secured in a sealed envelope with your child's name, class and amount enclosed on the envelope.

Free school meals are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- 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 four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

In addition, the following pupils will be protected against losing their free school meals as follows:

- Since 1 April 2018, all existing free school meals claimants have continued to receive free school meals whilst Universal Credit is rolled out. This applies even if their earnings rise above the threshold during that time.
- In addition, any pupil gaining eligibility for free school meals after 1 April 2018 will be protected against losing free school meals until March 2025.
- After March 2025, any existing claimants that no longer meet the eligibility criteria at that point (because they are earning above the threshold or are no longer a recipient of Universal Credit) will continue to receive free school meals until the end of their current phase of education (i.e. primary or secondary).

A pupil is only eligible to receive a free school meal when a claim for the meal has been made on their behalf and their eligibility, or protected status, has been verified by the school where they are enrolled or by the local authority.

If you think your child may be entitled to free school meals, please call St Helens Council's Education Benefits Team on 01744 675216 for further details relating to the above and the application process.