



# Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Executive Headteacher - Mrs B Quirke  
Head of School - Mrs S Rudd

15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Increase in the Cost of School Lunches

In 2022, catering for all schools in the St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi-Academy Trust was put out to tender to improve meal standards and consistency across the Trust. Derbyshire Catering won the bid, and now provide meals in all 25 of the schools across the trust to a high standard.

At £2.30 per meal however, the price charged to paying pupils/parents is below the cost per meal Derbyshire charge the school to provide each meal, and we understand that this cost will rise further in the New Year.

Unfortunately, if we continue to run a loss on the provision of school meals, this takes money out of our classrooms which then cannot be spent on our most important duty of ensuring that all our children receive the best education we can provide. As a result, from January 2024, the charge for a school meal will be increasing to £3.00 per day.

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 continue to be eligible for a free school meal. Outside these Year Groups, please check to see if your child is eligible for free school meals by following the link below.

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your-child-at-school/meals/school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

We hope you continue to use Derbyshire catering for your child's lunch, but we understand if you decide to provide a packed lunch instead.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Rudd  
Head of School



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NOTTINGHAM

Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy  
Gladstone Street, Glossop, SK13 8NE  
01457 854473  
[info@mgl.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:info@mgl.srscmat.co.uk)  
Company Number 7937154



**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust