



'A Caring Christian Family Where We Grow Together'

Dear Parents and carers

RE: School meal changes

Following communication this week from Cheshire East Catering I am writing to update you on some changes to the school catering service provided by Cheshire East Council. For many years, Cheshire East staff have ensured that high quality school meals are provided to children and young people across the schools within RCSAT and across Cheshire East.

However, over recent years, there have been increasing financial pressures in running this service due to both food and transport inflation and pay rises that have impacted on their running costs. This has led to the council providing a significant subsidy towards school meal costs. This is not a service that the council must provide and, given their current financial position, is not one that they can sustain. Therefore, it is with regret that the council has decided to cease trading its school catering service by April 2025.

As the council, has removed its subsidy to the school catering service for this financial year and, despite making all available savings, they will need to **significantly increase the charge made to schools to provide a school meal from September 2024 to March 2025**. This increase in cost is likely to be passed onto parents/carers who currently purchase school meals for their children as schools also do not have the budget to subsidise school meals. The proposed increase to meals will be shared with you in the near future but will not come into effect until September 2024. This has been a difficult decision for Cheshire East and it will have a significant impact on schools, parents/carers and children and young people.

As a trust, we are currently looking for a future option that provides a more cost-effective school meal service in the longer term. In the meantime, we hope that you will continue to support the Cheshire East school meal service that is doing the best it can to provide your child with a healthy and nutritious meal.

Many thanks for your continued support

Kind regards

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