



Victoria Park Junior School

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Stretford
Manchester
M32 0XZ



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Website: www.victoriaparkschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr. J. Wilkinson
Deputy Head: Miss M. Tidman

29th June 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Free School Meals, School Dinner Price and ParentPay

Free School Meals (FSM) Changes

From September 2026, free school meal eligibility is expanding. All children in households receiving Universal Credit may be entitled to free school meals (FSM).

All parents/carers will need to reapply to check if they are or remain eligible for this next academic year, 2026-2027.

Temporary protections, which allowed children to continue receiving FSM without rechecking eligibility every year, will end at the close of the 2025-2026 academic year. Therefore, eligibility will need to be re-checked every year.

From September 2026, all families will need to meet the new current eligibility criteria to continue receiving free school meals. We strongly encourage all families in receipt of Universal Credit to apply - even if your income has increased, your child may now qualify (from September 2026).

Applying is quick and easy via the [Online FSM Application](#) (OFSM). You need to add each of your children separately on the form. Our school is Victoria Park Junior School, postcode **M32 0XZ**.

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Together*



New FSM Categories from September 2026

Two types of benefit-based free school meals will be introduced:

- **Targeted Free School Meals**
Your child may qualify if your household receives Universal Credit and has an annual earned income of £7,400 or less (after tax, excluding benefits).
- **Expanded Free School Meals (Only from September 2026)**
Your child may qualify if your household receives Universal Credit.

Please see Mrs. Dyson in the school office or contact her on 0161 711 1509 if you have any queries regarding applying for FSM.

School Dinner Price

The price of Trafford's catering charges to all schools for school dinners is increasing significantly from September 2026. This is due to the current economic climate; cost of living crisis; and other external factors of which we have no control; and we are unable to maintain the current price. Therefore, we have made the difficult decision to increase price of school dinners to £3.20 per meal. This means that the weekly cost will be £16.00 from September 2026.

The decision to increase the cost has not been taken lightly but in order for us to continue to provide healthy, well-balanced meals we have no choice but to make this increase. Trafford catering have advised that the portion size and the quality of the food will remain the same.

ParentPay

Please be reminded that school dinners should be paid for in advance and sufficient funds should be on the ParentPay account prior to a meal being served. Dinner money should not be in debt. Dinners are charged at midnight on the day they are due to be taken and refunded once we have updated the daily attendance if your child is off school ill, on a school trip with a packed lunch, etc.



If you would like your child to change their dinner arrangements and start bringing a packed lunch from September, or vice versa, please let the school office know as soon as possible. Dinner arrangements can be changed at any time as long as at least a week's notice is given to the school office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr. Wilkinson