

# Paying for school meals and drinks



This easy read document tells you about how to pay for school meals and drinks.



[Information about how to apply for free school meals can be found here.](#)



If you cannot get free school meals, you must pay for them.



Nottinghamshire County Council has a recommended price for school meals. This is the money we think schools should charge.



In June 2026, the recommended cost is £3.16 per meal, but you should check the cost with the school before your child starts because it might be different.

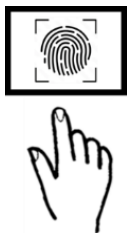


How much you pay will depend on the school or academy because they decide their own charges.

## Cashless Payment Systems for School Meals



Some schools do not take cash payments and have a cashless payment system.



When your child pays for their meals, they will swipe their finger across a scanner which reads their fingerprint.

Money is then taken out of an online account which you pay into.



If you have any questions or want a chat about your options, please contact your child's school.

## Links in this document

### Free School Meals

[nottinghamshire.gov.uk/global-content/easy-read-library/free-school-meals-and-milk](https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/global-content/easy-read-library/free-school-meals-and-milk)

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For plain English web page version of this information, go to:

[Costs and cashless payment systems for school meals |](#)

[Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals/costs-and-cashless-payments](https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals/costs-and-cashless-payments)

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