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Co-op Academy  
Manchester

## Free School Meals

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Co-op Academy Manchester, we always want to make sure our students are well-supported, healthy, and ready to learn. We are writing to share an important update about our school food provision.

### Action Needed!

You will have seen in our weekly bulletin that Free School Meals is changing. In order for your child to continue receiving free school meals in September, you **MUST** apply/reapply before 31st July.

[Check your eligibility and apply here](#). Note – you will need to reapply every year.

If this is not done, your child will not get their free food entitlement.

Alternatively, if you would like us to apply annually on your behalf, [complete this form](#).

## Changes to Free School Meals at break time

For some time, the academy has been funding an extra 90p per day for students who receive Free School Meals. This was an extra top-up to allow students to buy a snack at break time, on top of their main £2.60 lunchtime allowance. Providing extra funding for break time is not standard practice in schools, but it is something we have gladly offered over and above our usual provision to give our students extra support.

From September 2026, we will no longer be able to provide this extra 90p break time top-up. The main £2.60 allowance for lunch will remain exactly the same.

We want to remind you about our Free Breakfast Club.. Every single morning from 7.30am, all students can come into school and get free toast and crumpets. We are currently working to expand this breakfast offer so there is even more choice for our students, and we strongly encourage your child to come along in the morning to grab some free food.

We are also working closely with our catering supplier to look at creating smaller lunchtime meal deals. This would allow students the choice to split and use their Free School Meal allowance at break time too.

Please speak with your children to make it clear that they will now be charged for any break time items they take. To support our families and help ensure accounts do not go into debt, we can add a block to the system. If you would prefer that your child is not served any extra items beyond their standard Free School Meal allowance, please let us know and we will put a note on their lunch account.

Thank you for your continued support and for being such an important part of our academy community. If you have any questions or wish to add a note to your child's account, please do not hesitate to contact [manc-enquiries@coopacademies.co.uk](mailto:manc-enquiries@coopacademies.co.uk)

Warm regards,

Phill Quirk  
Executive Headteacher