

10th July 2026

Dear St Columba's,

I am writing to present this year's annual price review which will come into effect in September.

We fully appreciate the financial constraints currently faced within the education sector, and please rest assured that we are committed to keeping price increases to a minimum. Our overarching aim is to strike the right balance between maintaining operational sustainability and ensuring services remain affordable for our valued clients.

This year, however, we have seen two significant legislative changes which have directly impacted our costs:

- National Minimum Wage Increase
- Statutory Sick Pay Reforms: From 6th April 2026, new regulations abolished waiting days for sickness periods and remove the lower earnings limit. These changes have increased our obligations and associated costs.

Furthermore, while national food inflation has slowed, it continues to rise due to a variety of global factors. Our purchasing department is working diligently to mitigate these increases, and we are pleased to report that our costs remain below the national average for food inflation. This positive outcome is reflected in our proposed price uplifts for the coming year.

We are acutely aware of the many challenges facing schools at present, including tight budgeting and the need to maintain high standards of service. Please be assured that we do not take these concerns lightly.

Based on these factors, the uplift has been calculated at 5%, resulting in a main meal price of **£2.90**. A 5% increase will also be applied to all Grab & Go options.

Thank you very much for your ongoing partnership and understanding. We truly appreciate the vital role you play in supporting your students and the wider community, and we remain committed to working alongside you to achieve the very best outcomes.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Thewlis
Divisional Director – Taylor Shaw