

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 000790  
Date            17 January 2017

### ***School Meals***

#### **Request:**

For each of the local authority-maintained schools in your area please tell me:

- + What is the budget per pupil for a school meal?
- + How much of this cost is met by the parent?
- + How much of the cost is met by the school?
- + Are school meals voluntary or compulsory?

In respect of your above questions, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the above information. Consequently, we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) of the Act, that states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request".

However, I can advise you that the decision regarding any subsidy between the cost of the meal to the school and the charge to parents is the responsibility of the Governing Body. Under the Education Act 2011, schools may vary the charge for school meals up to the maximum cost; as a result, costs vary significantly across the City / country.

The provision of school meals for pupils entitled to free school meals under the national criteria ([www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)) or through the Government's Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) scheme is a statutory duty, again, the responsibility falls to a school's Governing Body and paid meals must be provided where requested. Meals should comply with the statutory nutritional standards where applicable (some Academies are exempt from the standards, but "expected" to meet them on a voluntary basis).