

DANSON PRIMARY SCHOOL



School Meals No Debt Policy

Adopted on: September 2018
Review Date September 2021
Signature *Abasey*

Introduction

Danson Primary school adopts a clear NO DEBT policy relating to school meal service.

If debts are incurred, then the school budget has to pay for them. This means that money which should be spent on the children's education is used to pay for debts incurred by parents/carers for school meals. Every parent/carer will agree that this is unacceptable and we request that all parents give this policy their full support.

No parent/carer would take their child to a restaurant and expect them to be given food without paying; the same applies at school.

Free School Meals

If parents/carers believe that their child may qualify for entitlement to Free School Meals please contact the school office for an application form. This allowance is a statutory right and it is important that you use it if you qualify.

Payment for School Meals

Parents/carers must pay in advance via their Arbor Account

Payment must be paid on a Monday or on the first day back after a holiday.

Children will not be provided with a school meal unless it is paid for, except those that are entitled to free school meals. If a parent genuinely forgets to pay in advance, the school may grant a debt allowance of one meal. However this debt must be paid immediately and future meals must be paid in advance before any meal is provided.

If a debt is not cleared, parents/carers must provide a packed lunch. The school will not be able to provide a meal in this case and will call parents/carers to notify them of this.

If a child has forgotten their packed lunch box, a school meal will not be available unless it has been paid for in the morning. If the parent has not sent in payment for a hot dinner, they will be called and asked to bring a packed lunch to school before lunchtime.

Parents will need to inform the school office if their child requires a school dinner, but will be arriving late due to an appointment, so that a meal can be ordered. If the school is not informed before 9.30am, then a meal will not be available for your child and a packed lunch must be provided. Also, if a school dinner is ordered for a child in the morning who is then sent home unwell, a charge will still be incurred for this meal.

If your child has taken a meal which has not been paid for, you will be sent a reminder detailing how much you owe.

Consequences of Non Payment for School Meals

If payment of the debt is not received, the Head Teacher reserves the right to begin legal proceedings against parents/carers to recover the debt. Social Services may also be informed that these parents/carers are not carrying out the responsibility of care by not providing food for their child at lunchtime. It is not the responsibility of the School to provide lunch for pupils. It is the responsibility of the parents/carers to provide a meal, either a school lunch or a packed lunch.

By implementing this debt policy we are able to help parents manage school dinner money effectively, reduce the administration time and costs involved chasing dinner money debts and at the same time ensure that all money for children's learning is available.