



Furness Vale Primary and Nursery School

Dinner Money Policy

Payment for School Meals

The cost of a school meal
(September 2024)
is currently £3.25 per day
(£16.25 per week)

This is payable in advance

Parents and Carers pay on Monday morning each week or may pay for longer periods of up to a term in advance if more convenient, using their ParentPay account.

If children are absent, their dinner money account will be in credit by the number of days absent and this credit balance can be used for meals once they return.

Refunds may only be given for credits at the end of a term or if a child is leaving to attend another school.

If a child forgets their packed lunch and is given a school meal, Parents/Carers must pay for that meal the following day.

Free School Meals

Parents and Carers who are in receipt of certain benefits, may be entitled to 'Free School Meals'

These benefits may include:

- Universal Credit
- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

- Child Tax Credit (not Working Tax Credit)
- Pension Credit Guarantee and to be receipt of Child Tax Credit above the basic
- family element

If you think you might be entitled to Free School Meals, please contact the school office who can carry out the necessary checks for you.

Please be aware that all applications for Free School Meals are treated with the Strictest confidence.

Debt Policy

As from September 2022 the school adopted a strict no debt policy relating to school meals.

If a school dinner has not been paid for in advance the school may allow a meal to be provided where it is felt that this is a temporary situation. e.g. Parent has forgotten to pay via 'Parent Pay', temporary hardship etc. However, details should be recorded in writing and a record maintained and monitored. If a child takes a school meal which has not been paid for, a letter/text detailing how much is owed will be sent to the parent/carer requesting payment via 'Parent Pay' within 7 days.

If debts are incurred the school has to pay for the meals eaten, therefore, it is important that Parents and Carers read the policy and follow the procedures for payment in order to avoid financial loss to the school.

If debt is incurred Parents and Carers must either provide a packed lunch or take the child home for lunch until the debit is cleared.

If a reasonable arrangement to clear a debt cannot be made, the school reserves the right to begin legal proceedings to secure payment.

Rationale

We hope that by implementing this debt policy we are able to help parents manage school dinner money better and ensure that all money that is for children's learning is available for that purpose.