



Rosh Pinah Primary School

School Meals Debt Policy for Parents/Carers

Ratified by the Governing Body: June 2018

As from 1 September 2016 Rosh Pinah Primary School has adopted a strict NO DEBT policy relating to the 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. Every parent/carer will agree that this is unacceptable and we request that all parents/carers 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. If parents/carers believe that their children may qualify for entitlement to Free School Meals please contact the school and complete a Free School Meals Form. The School will then send this to Borough checking service to check for eligibility, alternatively visit <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>. This allowance is a statutory right and it is important that you use it if you qualify. Help is available with your application either at the school office.

Parents/carers must pay online in advance for the school lunch using SIMS Pay
<https://www.sims-pay.co.uk>

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

If the debt is not cleared, parents/carers must take the child home for lunch. In a case when a debt payment is not received the school will phone the parent/carer to ask them to come to school with the money or ask them to pay online immediately. Otherwise they must take their child home for lunch.

If payment of the debt is not received within a week, the Headteacher reserves the right to begin legal proceedings against parents/carers to recover the debt. Any costs incurred in recovering such debt will be charged to the parent/carer. In cases of persistent 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 children at lunchtime.

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

Parents/carers who are experiencing severe financial difficulties should contact the school Business Manager to discuss their personal circumstances.

Updated September 2019