



CHRIST CHURCH CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Meal Debt Policy

Vision

"As God loves us all, our vision at Christ Church is for everyone in our family to feel equal, valued and prepared for life in modern British society. While walking humbly with our God, our children will become wise, compassionate, independent and resilient learners in an inclusive and safe environment. We strive for success, spiritual fulfilment and a life lived 'in all its fullness'.

Believe and Achieve!"

Book of Micah: Verse 6:8

What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Mission:

Serving God's Community

In developing a greater understanding of Christian and other faiths within the community, we seek to develop the personality and potential of all, and to understand that we are created equally by God.

We are committed to providing an outstanding education to prepare our children for adult life in modern Britain in our locality by living in harmony before God.

By developing the social, moral and cultural and spiritual dimensions of pupils the school seeks to equip them to make a positive contribution to the community.

In finding time to be still and reflect, we seek to foster spirituality and a deeper relationship with God.

Introduction

Christ Church CE Primary School has a strict 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.

Free School Meals

If parents/carers believe that their children may qualify for entitlement to Free School Meals please contact the school office for more details. This allowance is a statutory right and it is important that you use it if you qualify. We will help you all we can with your application.

When we do the initial home visit for a child's admission parents complete a form so that FSM eligibility can be checked and then automatically updated throughout the child's primary school attendance.

Payment For School Meals

Parents/Carers must pay in advance for school meals by sending cash in an envelope marked with your child's name and amount enclosed. Meals should be paid for weekly on a Monday, or half termly or termly in advance.

When Payment For School Meals Has Not Been Received

We cannot allow dinner money debts to accumulate above two weeks and therefore expect that parents owing more than this without a valid reason will be asked to provide a packed lunch for their child until the debt is paid. If the weekly payment for school meals is not received by Friday of that week a letter will be sent to the parent/carer. If debt payment is not received by Friday of the second week of non-payment, the school will write to the parent/carer to inform them that meals will be suspended on Monday of the third week and that they must provide a packed lunch.

Consequences Of Non Payment For School Meals

If payment of the debt is not received within seven days, the Head Teacher reserves the right to refer the debt to a debt collection service. If legal action becomes necessary, collection charges will be added to the total amount of the debt.

The school will not allow a child in its care to go without a meal at lunchtime. Children whose parents/carers have debts over two weeks old will be provided with a sandwich, fruit and water. However, it is not the responsibility of the School to provide lunch for pupils. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to provide a meal: either buying a school lunch or sending a packed lunch from home. The school does however have a duty to safeguard children in its care; if parents/carers do not fulfil this duty of care, this may be viewed as a safeguarding matter, in which case, the school may contact the Children's Advice and Support Services (CASS) for advice.

Conclusion

We hope that by implementing this Debt Policy:

- we are able to ensure parents/carers manage school dinner money effectively;
- we reduce the administration time and costs involved chasing dinner money debts,
- and at the same time ensure that all monies for children's learning is available for that purpose.

New Policy January 2020

Approved Governors February 2021