

Baginton Fields School School Meals Debt Policy 2020/21



“Dedicated to delivering inspirational learning experiences.”

Approved by Governors: December 2018

Review date: December 2021

School Meals Debt Policy for Parents/Carers

As from **01.01.19 Baginton Fields 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. Every parent will agree that this is unacceptable and we request that all parents give this policy their full support. No parent would take their child to McDonalds and expect them to be given food without paying; the same applies at school.

Entitlement to Free School Meals is processed as part of Housing Benefit/Council Tax support claims by the Benefits service. Free School Meals are a statutory benefit. To find out if you are eligible please use the contact information below:

Free School Meals

Email: freeschoolmeals@coventry.gov.uk

Tel: 024 7683 3773

Customer Service Centre
Broadgate House
Broadgate
Coventry
CV1 1FS

Parents/Carers must pay in advance for school lunches either by cash or cheque, sending the money in a marked envelope.

Payment should be sent to school on the Monday for that week. Families are welcome to pay for a week, fortnight, month or half term in advance. Should your child be ill that money will be used to pay for a future meal.

May I remind you that if your child has a medical appointment it is your responsibility to inform school if a lunch is required or not on that day. If you do not inform school you will be charged for that day's meal.

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 genuinely forgets to pay in advance, the school may grant a debt allowance of 1 meal. However this debt must be paid next day and future meals must be paid in advance before any meal is provided.

If the debt is not cleared, parents must provide a packed lunch. In a case when a debt payment is not received nor a packed lunch provided, the head teacher will phone the parent to ask them to

come to school with the money. Otherwise they must provide sandwiches before lunch time or arrange to take their child home for lunch.

If payment of the debt is not received by the next day, the Headteacher reserves the right to begin legal proceedings against parents to recover the debt. Social services may also be informed that these parents 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 manage school dinner money better and at the same time ensure that all money that is for children's learning is used for that purpose.

If you have any concerns please don't hesitate in contacting the Headteacher.