



# Fairfield Community Primary School School Meal Debt Policy

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This financial cost for unpaid school meals is now being passed onto schools. Consequently, the school is forced to adopt a 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 (e.g. 1 unpaid meal equals 1 less book for the school) 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. If parents believe that their children may qualify for entitlement to Free School Meals please see the letter attached. This allowance is a statutory right and it is important that you use it if you qualify as the school receives more money for each FSM child. We will help you all we can with your application.

## **NEW SYSTEM**

Parent/s **MUST** pay on a **MONDAY** morning (in advance for the school meals) for the **WHOLE WEEK** by sending in cash or cheque in a marked envelope using the slips attached.

Parents can still pick and choose which days they want their child to receive a school meal but this must now **be ordered and paid for in advance** on a **MONDAY**.

Children will not be provided with a school meal unless it is paid for in advance, except those who are entitled to free school meals. If a parent has genuinely forgot to pay in advance, the school will grant a debt allowance of 1 meal. However this debt must be paid the **NEXT** day and future meals must be paid in advance before any meal is provided. The school will text any parent on a Monday who has not paid for their child's meal in advance.

If the debt is not cleared, parents must either provide a packed lunch or take the child home for lunch. In a case where the debt is not cleared nor a packed lunch provided, the Head teacher will phone the parent to make arrangements.

The school now has the responsibility to begin legal proceedings against the parents to recover the debt and Social services may also be informed that these parents are not carrying out their duty 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 is spent on children's learning.



Policy	<i>School Meal Debt Policy</i>
Reviewing Committee	<i>Full GB</i>
Last Reviewed	<i>2013</i>
Ratified by Governing Body	<i>2013</i>