



Everybody Learns - Everybody Cares

Dinner Money Debt Policy

Background

The Bede Community Primary School Dinner Debt Policy has been adopted to ensure that a consistent and fair approach to debt incurred by parents/carers whose children take school dinners.

Provision of School Meals

The Schools Meals Service is no different to any other business in that meals have to be paid for by someone.

Cost of School Meals

School meals are available to children at a cost of £3.30 per day. Any revision to the school meal prices will be notified to parents/carers the term prior to the new charge taking effect.

Payment for School Meals

Payment is made directly to Dolce. The school office will not get involved unless there is the cost of three meals owed. We need to approve they are allowed to take a meal and we will contact the parents to advise. If we approve a meal that is not eventually paid then the debt lies with the school.

Management of School Meal Debts

To ensure that the School's budget is not adversely affected by the cost of School meal debt the Governors consider the fairest system to all families is to pursue a 'Zero Tolerance' approach. Although, this may seem harsh to some parents it is important that the school budget is spent for the benefit of all our pupils and not a small number.

If a child takes school meals which have not been paid for, we will telephone the parents requesting immediate payment.

Where a child continues to require meals, the School must establish if the parent/carer is experiencing hardship which affects their ability to pay. Under these circumstances the parent/carer will be invited to speak confidentially to the business manager / head teacher.

If the debt is not cleared, home packed lunches must be provided to prevent further arrears. The school will work with the parent / carer to ensure debt is cleared. In the unlikely event of this not happening this will be referred to the business manager for further action.

Reviewed October 2026

Next review October 2027