



Bryn Offa Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr P Thompson

Monday 19th July 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Payment for School Meals

I am writing to update you on our policy with regard to payment for school meals.

As a parent or guardian, I am sure you will be able to relate to the situation that you would not be able to take your child into a restaurant and expect them to be given 'credit' for food to be paid for at a later date. However, this situation has arisen in school with a minority of parents. If debts are incurred, then the school budget has to pay for them. We still have to pay for that food, wages and services regardless of whether or not we receive payment from parents. This means that money which should be spent on all pupils' education in school is used to pay for debts incurred by individual parents. I am sure you will agree that this is totally unacceptable and we would ask that parents and guardians give our new policy with regard to this their full support.

From September 2021, all school meals must be paid for in advance. Meals for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be free under the Government Universal Free School Meals Scheme but once your child moves into Year 3, school meals must be paid for in advance.

If a pupil is to have meals for the duration of the week, payment must be received before the start of that week. School dinners can be paid for on a weekly, half termly, monthly or termly basis. The price remains at £2.32 per day or £11.60 per week. Any credit at the end of the week will always be carried forward unless a refund is requested.

Children will not be provided with a school meal unless it is paid for, except those children that are entitled to free school meals. We appreciate that there may be times when payment is overlooked or when an 'emergency' meal may be required on a one-off occasion. If a parent or guardian genuinely forgets to pay in advance, we will allow

a maximum debt of £4.64. However, this debt must be paid immediately before any further meals are provided. You will be notified of arrears as they become due.

If a parent or guardian falls into debt more than three times in a term, we reserve the right to refuse to provide meals for their child for the rest of the term. If debts are incurred and not paid immediately, the debt will be referred to Shropshire Council and this may affect credit rating in the future.

If a parent or guardian is struggling to pay, they should get in touch and we will endeavour to help wherever we can. If you think your child may be entitled to free school meals, please contact Miss Morris in the school office.

I appreciate that this may seem like a tough stance to take but we feel a zero tolerance approach is best and fair to all parents and guardians and we hope you will agree.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Thompson
Headteacher