



School Meal Debt Policy Statement for Parents and Carers

Carden Primary School through its school meal service is committed to doing what it can to provide pupils with healthy and varied lunches that will support their wellbeing and their ability to concentrate and learn.

If parents and carers believe that their child/ren may qualify for Free School Meals and has not yet received them we ask them to contact the office immediately for further information on how to apply. We will help you with your application including support for those whose first language is not English if needed.

We ask that all parents and carers pay for their children's lunches in advance online using ParentPay (www.parentpay.com) If school meal debts are incurred, then the school budget has to pay for them rather than being spent on the children's education. The majority of parents and carers at Carden Primary do pay in advance and in doing so support our school to run smoothly and our valuable funds to be used to help children to learn. However, this Policy Statement is to inform parents and carers that as of January 2017 Carden Primary School has adopted a strict **NO DEBT** policy relating to the school meal service. This means that:

- 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 forgets to pay in advance, the school may grant a debt allowance of 1 meal.
- This debt must be paid the next day and future meals must be paid for in advance.
- If the debt is not cleared, parents must provide a packed lunch.
- If the debt is not paid or a pack lunch provided, the school will phone the parent to ask them to pay online immediately or come to school with the money or a packed lunch.
- If we become concerned that a child is regularly missing meals or sent to school with no food and no money we may need to inform social services.

If you have concerns about this policy or your family's ability to pay for or provide lunches for your child(ren) please speak to the school office.

Chair of Governors:

Date:

[Signature] 9th February 2017

Head teacher:

Date:

[Signature] 20/2/17