



School Meals Debt Policy for Parents

Lawrence View Primary 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. If parents believe that their children may qualify for entitlement to Free School Meals please contact the office for more details. This allowance is a statutory right and it is important that you use it if you qualify. We will help you all we can with your application.

If you believe you may qualify for free school meals due to your family circumstances, please register either by phone on 0300 500 8080 or online at https://emsonline.nottscg.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fCitizenPortal_LIVE. If you need assistance with your application please speak to the school office. Free meal entitlement will only apply from the date the school receives the notification from Nottinghamshire County Council. It will not be backdated.

Parent/s must pay in advance for the school lunch using any of the methods of payment outlined below:

- Online payment through their child’s sQuid account **THIS IS OUR PREFERRED METHOD**
- Cash or cheque (payable to Lawrence View Primary School) handed to the school office in a clearly labelled sealed envelope.

If your child’s sQuid account is more than £11.45 in arrears (equivalent to 1 weeks dinners), you will receive a text message from school asking you to clear this balance and requesting that your child is sent with sandwiches until this balance is cleared.

In a case when a debt payment is not received nor a packed lunch provided, the School Business Manager will phone the parent to ask them to come to school with the money or ask them to pay via sQuid immediately.

If payment of the debt is not received within 10 school days, the Headteacher reserves the right to begin legal proceedings against parents to recover the debt. Childrens 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 available