Congerstone Primary School

School Meal Debt

Congerstone Primary School has adopted a strict no debt policy in relation 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. This is unacceptable and we request that all parents give this policy their full support. No parent would take their child to a restaurant 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 School Food Support Service Free School Meal eligibility checking service on 0116 305 5417, or alternatively visit https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/socialcare-and-supporting-families/free-school-meals. This allowance is a statutory right and it is important that you use it if you qualify. Help is available with your application either at the school office or by contacting the above number.

Parents must pay in advance for a school lunch using Arbor (online payment facility). Children will not be provided with a school lunch unless it is paid for in advance, except those that are entitled to free school meals. If a parent genuinely forgets to pay in advance, the school may grant a debt allowance at the Headteacher's discretion. However, this debt must be paid by the stated date and future meals must be paid in advance before any meal is provided.

If the debt is not cleared, parents must either provide a packed lunch or take the child home for lunch. In a case when a debt payment is not received nor a packed lunch provided, the school will telephone the parent to ask them to come to school with the money or ask them to pay online immediately. Otherwise, they must provide sandwiches before lunch time or arrange to take their child home for lunch.

If payment of the debt is not received by the stated date, the school reserves the right to begin legal proceedings against parents to recover the debt.

Social services will also be informed that parents are not carrying out their responsibility of care; by not providing food for their children at lunchtime.

We hope you understand that by implementing this debt policy we are able to help parents manage school dinner money, and therefore school funds are used for the children's learning and not debt recovery.

If you have any concerns, please contact the school office.