

# Beaumont Primary School

## Dinner Money Debt Policy



### Introduction

Beaumont Primary School implement a strict 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/carers. Every parent/carer will agree that this is unacceptable and we request that all parents/carers give this policy their full support.

No parent/carer would take their child to a restaurant and expect them to be given food without paying; the same applies at school.

### Free School Meals

If parents/carers believe that their children may qualify for entitlement to Free School Meals please contact the school 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.

### Payment for School Meals

Parents/Carers must pay in advance for school meals by sending cash or cheque (made payable to Beaumont Primary) in an envelope marked with their child's name. Meals can be paid for on a weekly basis each Monday, half termly or termly.

### When Payment For School Meals Has Not Been Received

We cannot allow dinner money debts to accumulate above two weeks and therefore require that parents owing more than this provide a packed lunch. If the weekly payment for school meals is not received by Friday of the first week, parent/carers will be notified by message on the ParentsApp, or by phone. If debt payment is not received by Friday of the second week of non-payment, the school will again notify the parent/carer by ParentsApp message or by phone, to inform them that meals will be suspended on Monday of the third week and that they must provide a packed lunch. This is non-negotiable.

### Consequences of Non Payment for School Meals

If payment of the debt is not received within 14 days, the Head Teacher reserves the right to refer the debt to Bolton Council's debt collection department. Social Services may also be informed that these parents/carers are not carrying out the responsibility of care by not providing food for their children at lunchtime. It is not the responsibility of the School to provide lunch for pupils. It is the responsibility of the parents/carers to provide a meal: either a school lunch or a packed lunch from home.

### Conclusion

We hope that by implementing this Dinner Money Debt Policy:

- we are able to ensure parents/carers manage school dinner money effectively;
- we reduce the administration time and costs involved chasing dinner money debts,
- we ensure that all monies for children's learning is available for that purpose.

**Reviewed:**                      **September 2020**

**Next Review Date:**        **September 2023**