



CROWTHORNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL MEALS DEBT POLICY

Status of Policy	Date
Statutory	
Reviewed	Every two years
Ratified by governors	May 2025
Review date:	May 2027

Our school policies reflect our vision of

*Inspiring and enabling our school community to live life to the full,
promoting excellence and nurturing
compassion, honesty, trust, hope, respect, thankfulness and courage.*

John 10 v 10:

Jesus said: "I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full"

CROWTHORNE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL SCHOOL MEALS DEBT POLICY

1. Introduction

- To eliminate school meals debt.
- The intent of this policy is to help parents/carers by providing greater clarity about how we intend to deal with school dinner money arrears.

2. Key Principles

- To take prompt action to ensure that school meals debts do not occur.
- To ensure a fair and consistent approach to dealing with dinner money payments
- To support parents/carers if they are unable to pay due to financial hardship

3. Paying for school meals

- Meals should be paid for in advance by paying online with Caterlink.
- If any family is facing financial difficulty, we encourage them to come in and speak to us as soon as possible so that we are aware and can signpost them to further support.

4. Free school meal entitlement

If parents/carers believe that their child may be entitled to free school meals, they are asked to contact the school office for more details. School staff will explain the process and guide them through how they should apply. This allowance is a statutory right and it is important that parents use it if they qualify.

5. Consequence of debt

If debts are incurred then the school's main budget is used to pay for them. This means that money which should be spent on children's education is instead used to pay for debts incurred by non-payment of meals.

We have therefore decided to adopt a zero debt policy. Children will not be given a school lunch unless it is paid for in advance. However, if a child forgets their packed lunch, or there is no money in the account, we would provide a meal and inform parents of the cost. In this situation, parents are asked to settle the account for the next day. If they are unable to do this, a packed lunch should be sent in daily until the account is settled.