

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School

Dinner Money Policy



St Joseph's RC Primary School is responsible for the collection and reconciliation of all school dinner money and also liable for all arrears and non-payments.

We have a zero-tolerance approach to school dinner money arrears.

Children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 are entitled to a Universal Infant Free School Meal.

Parents of children in Nursery and Years 3-6 are responsible for providing a lunch for their child(ren). This may be in the form of a paid school dinner, a packed lunch from home or an application for a free school meal entitlement.

If you believe your child may be eligible for free school meals you should make an application online to Lancashire County Council at:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/>.

Where a paid school dinner is taken, parents must pay for school dinners **in advance**. Payments should be made through ParentPay on a Monday morning to pay for school meals for that current week.

The current cost of a school meal is £2.70 per day, £13.50 per week.

Parents can also pay daily, monthly, half termly, termly or annually as long as it is in advance.

If a child arrives at school expecting to have a paid school dinner, and no payment has been received, the school office will contact the parent to request that payment or a packed lunch from home is brought in by lunchtime, or that the parent takes the child home for lunch. If by lunchtime we have not received payment or a packed lunch, we will provide a lunchtime snack in the form of a drink of water/milk, toast, sandwich or cereal. Children will not be provided with a full school lunch.

If the school office has to contact the parent three times in one half term, parents will be asked to provide a packed lunch for their child for the rest of the half term. If this happens again then parents will be asked to provide a packed lunch for the rest of the school year. School also reserves the right to request advice and assistance from Children's Social Care. Debts over £50.00 will be referred on to Lancashire County Council.

If your child is absent from school and meals have been paid for, these will be carried forward as credits and the following week's payments will be adjusted accordingly.

September 2025