



South Wonston Primary School

Dinner Money Policy

Payment for School Meals

- As of September 2025, the cost of a school meal is £2.75 per day = £13.75 per week
- School meals are payable in advance
- Parents/Carers are expected to pay in advance or on a daily basis, (you may pay for longer periods up to a term in advance if more convenient)
- Parents/Carers pay for school meals online via the Scopay app (online payments only)
- If children are absent, their dinner money is credited for the following meal(s)
- Refunds may only be given for credits at the end of the term or if a child is leaving the school to attend another
- If a child forgets their packed lunch and is given a school meal, parents/ guardians will be made aware and would be expected to pay, via the Scopay app as soon as possible (except for children in receipt of Free School Meals or Universal Free School Meals initiative in KS1)

Free School Meals (Year R, KS1 and KS2)

Parents/Carers who are in receipt of certain benefits, may be entitled to Free School Meals (this is applicable even if your child is already receiving free school meals under the Universal Government initiative in Year R and KS1). These include:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Parents/Carers can apply online at <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants>. If you do not have access to the internet, please ask the school office who can apply on your behalf.

Please be aware that all applications for Free School Meals are treated with the strictest confidence.

The school encourages parents who are eligible under the above criteria to apply for free school meals (even if you are receiving free meals from the Government Universal Free School Meal Initiative) as the school will receive additional funding for your child within school to support them with their learning and any other assistance they may need.

Universal Free School Meals – Early Years and Key Stage 1

Year R and Key Stage 1 pupils are able to have a school meal at lunchtime, free of charge.

This applies to all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, and requires no registration. Each child is entitled to a hot, two course meal at their school which will include a meat or non-meat main item, vegetables, potato, pasta or rice, salad and a dessert.

Please note that this arrangement is subject to current government policy and logistical operations within school.

Debt on account

Due to the ever rising costs associated with school meals, the school needs to ensure that all school meals for children are paid for in a timely manner. Where parents do not pay in advance or on the day for their child's school meals there is potential for debts to build up on their account. If this occurs the following policy will be adopted.

- The school adopts a strict no debt for longer than two weeks policy relating to school meals
- An email will be sent to parents/carers once a debt of more than 2 meals has built up on their child's account and they will be asked to pay for those meals as soon as possible.
- No debt of more than two weeks per child will be allowed to incur before a request to provide a packed lunch is made
- We request that all parents/carers give this policy their full support. If debts are incurred, the school has to pay for the meals eaten. This means that money which should be spent on the children's education has to be used for debts incurred by parents/carers.
- If a debt is not cleared, parents/carers must provide a packed lunch. In a case when a debt payment is not received, nor a packed lunch provided, the school office will telephone the parent or carer asking them to come to school with the money immediately or provide a lunch option for their child
- If a reasonable arrangement to clear a debt cannot be made, the school reserves the right to forward the debt onto Hampshire County Council Debt Recovery Service which could result in legal proceedings taking place.