



# Horndon on the Hill Church of England Primary School

Head of School Mrs. D. Bradley

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**We are all part of God's family. Through trying our best in all that we do, we find a sense of belonging.  
1 Corinthians 12:27 'All of you together are Christ's body and each of you is a part of it'.**

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## School Meals Debt Policy for Parents

As from September 2023, Horndon on the Hill Church of England Primary School has adopted a strict NO DEBT policy relating to the school meal service.

If debts are incurred, 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. Every parent will agree that 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 Education Awards and Benefits, Thurrock Council at [awards.thurrock.gov.uk](http://awards.thurrock.gov.uk), or alternatively visit [www.thurrock.gov.uk/school-meals/free-school-meals](http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/school-meals/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 Thurrock Council.

Parent/s must pay in advance for the school lunch using the online payment system - PlusPay.

Children will not be provided with a school lunch unless it is paid for, 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 of one meal. However, this debt must be paid next day and future meals must be paid in advanced before any meal is provided. We will support parents by contacting them immediately if their account falls into debt.

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 head teacher will phone 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 next day, the Headteacher reserves the right to begin legal proceedings against parents to recover the debt. Social services may also be informed that these parents are not carrying out the responsibility of care by not providing food for their children at lunchtime.

We hope that by implementing this debt policy we are able to help parents manage school dinner money better and at the same time ensure that all money that is for children's learning is available.



Horndon-on-the-Hill C. of E. Primary School is a proud partner in the Osborne Co-operative Academy Trust

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