

RIDGEWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Southcote Road Sanderstead, South Croydon
Surrey CR2 0EQ

HEADTEACHER

Mrs Joanna Redzimski

Email: office@ridgeway.croydon.sch.uk

Telephone: 020 8657 8063/6957

Fax: 020 8657 6981

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Dear Parents/Carers

School Meals Debt Policy for Parents

As from 2009 Ridgeway Primary School and Nursery adopted a strict NO 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. 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 McDonalds 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 the 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.

Evidence requested must be provided on time. Free meal entitlement will only apply from the date the school receives the evidence. It will not be backdated.

Parent/s must pay in advance for the school lunch using Credit/Debit Cards Online using ParentPay. The staff in the school office can assist you in using this.

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 1 meal. However this debt must be paid next day and future meals must be paid in advanced before any meal is provided.

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 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/Chartwells reserves the right to begin legal proceedings against parents to recover the debt. Childrens 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.

If you have any concerns please don't hesitate in contacting me.

Yours sincerely

Joanna Redzimski
Head Teacher