



SCHOOL MEALS POLICY

**REVIEWED
SEPTEMBER 2025**

Aim

The aim of this policy is to establish clear guidance on school meals in order to ensure that money received for the education of pupils at our school is not utilised unfairly to pay school meal debts incurred by a minority of parents/carers.

Awareness of Policy

Birkwood Primary School will ensure that parents are aware of this policy in the following ways:

- Provide a copy of the Policy at the beginning of each new school year; include details in the School Prospectus and on the School Website.

This will ensure that all parents/carers get the same message in a consistent way. This should be done at least once each year. All parents/carers should also be provided with a copy of the policy when their child joins the school.

Variety of meals on offer

Every day a variety of healthy meals are offered to the children to suit their tastes. All meals are accompanied by dessert. There is the choice of:

- Jacket potatoes with either warm or cold fillings, pasta dish or savoury plate
- Traditional hot dinner
- Vegetarian dinner

Pupils will select their choice of lunch and at lunchtime they will be reminded of their choice by the lunchtime staff. Termly menus are available to view on the school's website and are also put on the outside Parent Notice Board on a weekly basis to enable children to look at the options before school with their parents/carers. A copy of the menu can also be requested from school reception.

Cost of meals

The cost of a school meal is currently £3 per day, £15 per week. Dinner money is paid through Arbor.

Free School Meals

If you think your child may be entitled to free school meals, please contact Mrs White or Mrs Booth. Alternatively, you can contact the Benefits, Taxation and Income Contact Centre on 01226 787787 or the Barnsley Council website: www.barnsley.gov.uk and click on Schools and Learning.

Non-payment

Children will not be provided with a school meal unless it is paid for, except those that are entitled to free school meals.

Universal Infant Free School Meals for under 8s

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to Free School Meals. Your child will automatically receive a meal, however, if you do not wish your child to receive a meal then please let school know and send them with a packed lunch.

Although infant children will automatically receive a free school meal, we ask families who have a statutory entitlement to free school meals to complete an [application form](#) online at Barnsley.gov.uk so that we can check if the school is entitled to receive Pupil Premium for your child.

Key Information

1. All parents/carers are provided with a copy of the School Meals Policy, in addition when their child joins the school.
2. All school lunches must be paid for in advance.
3. No child should be sent to school with no money in their account and expect to be given a meal.
4. Parents/carers who don't want their child to have a school lunch, should provide a healthy packed lunch.

Monitoring and Review

The Governing Body reviews this policy annually. The Governors may, however, review the policy earlier than this, if the government introduces new regulations, or if the Governing Body receives recommendations on how the policy might be improved.

This policy will be reviewed in September 2026.

Signed _____ Headteacher Date _____

Signed _____ Chair of Governors Date _____