



Dinner Money Payment Policy

July 2022

All dinner money transactions are computerised. Payment can be made daily, weekly or monthly. **The cost of a school dinner is currently £2:30**, unless your child is entitled to a free school meal*, in which case there is no charge.

Parents are highly encouraged to use the +Pay online system where they can track and manage their spending.

Although online payment is preferred, cheques will be accepted. These should be *made payable to Sunnymede Junior School*. Cheques should be sent in a sealed envelope and are clearly labelled with your child's name and class. Receipts for cheques will be issued on request from the parent.

Cash is not accepted for dinner money payments.

OVERPAYMENTS

At the end of the year, any overpayments will be transferred to the next year, unless the parent requests an alternative arrangement. If your child is leaving the school, a reimbursement will be made.

DEBTS

The school has no obligation to feed your child if you have not paid in advance. We cannot allocate money from our delegated budget to cover arrears.

Statements of Accounts will be sent home if your account falls into arrears.

If the debt remains unpaid and reaches the equivalent of one week's meals, a letter will be issued requesting that your child be sent in with a packed lunch until the debt is cleared.

If the debt remains unpaid, the school will contact parents/carers to discuss how the arrears can be cleared.

If parents/carers do not comply, the Governing Body will be informed and the school will begin proceedings to recover the debt.

If you have any queries or questions or think you may be entitled to free school meals, please come to the school office and talk with them in confidence.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS ELIGIBILITY

Children in junior schools (Year three and above) are not entitled to free school meals under the Government's Universal Free School Meals policy.

However, your child may qualify for free school meals if you are receiving any of the following:

- 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)

Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the [compulsory age for starting school](#)
- in full-time education

You can use the link below on Essex County Council's website to make an application if you think you may be eligible. Applications are usually processed in 15 days, though this can take longer in August and September. <https://www.essex.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

SIX GOOD REASONS TO HAVE A SCHOOL MEAL



Research shows that children are able to concentrate and learn better when they are well nourished.

Our meals are cooked on site from fresh ingredients purchased from local suppliers, by an established and experienced kitchen team.

2



Our menus have all been nutritionally analysed and meet current recommended guidelines.

It is often more convenient for children to have their main meal at lunchtime, especially if they are attending after school clubs.

4



The food is tasty and there's plenty of it - children can have a side salad, fruit or bread in addition to the main meal.

Great value at £2.30 per meal

6



Our kitchen consistently receives a five-star hygiene rating from the Food Standards Agency. This reflects the excellent standards maintained in the school kitchen.

