

Ladywood Primary School



School Meals Policy

April 2026

School Meals Policy

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 the school is not impacted by the cost of provision of school meals by ensuring that school meal debt is kept to a minimum.

Variety of meals on offer

Every day a variety of healthy meals are offered to the children to suit all tastes. These include;

- Jacket potatoes with either warm or cold filling
- Traditional hot dinner
- Vegetarian dinner
- Panini selection
- Salad

At registration pupils will select their choice of lunch, kitchen staff will have a class list to ensure each child receives the selected meal. All of the above meals are accompanied with a dessert.

Menus are circulated to children and parents by letter and the website to enable children to study the options before school with their parents/carers. Parents/carers may also make a meal selection from home using the Arbor app.

Cost of meals

The cost of a school meal is currently £3 per day or £15 per week. School meals operate on a cashless basis, parents/carers pay online using the Arbor App.

Universal Free School Meals

Pupils in Reception, Y1 and Y2 all receive a free meal under the Government Universal Infant Free meal scheme.

Free School Meals

If families this their child/ren may be entitled to free school meals they can contact the school for advice and/or support to apply. Further information is also available from the Free school meal Services, BMBC, on 01226 787787 or online at

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/schools-and-learning/free-school-meals/>

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.

We recognise that sometimes pupils, parents/carers genuinely forget to pay in advance. In these cases the Administrative Officer will contact the parent to ask them either; to pay before 11am, bring a packed lunch or make alternative provision by collecting their child for lunch at home.

Involvement of external services

In circumstances where parents/carers frequently do not pay dinner money and it is believed that these parents/carers are not carrying out their responsibility of care by not providing food for their children at lunchtime, it may be necessary to inform other services.

School Milk

Under the School Milk Scheme, milk is available to all children and can be ordered directly on-line from www.coolmilk.com. Pupils in receipt of benefit related free school meals also are entitled to free milk as are all children under the age of 5 years. Parents must pay milk money on-line. Paid order details are updated weekly.

Packed Lunches

If you wish your child may bring a packed lunch which will be eaten under supervision in the dining room. They may also bring a drink (non-fizzy) in a plastic bottle or flask to have with their lunch. So that you know what your child has eaten out of their packed lunch, children will only be allowed to throw away packaging that will make a mess in their lunchbox, e.g. yoghurts. Glass bottles are not allowed for safety reasons.

The bringing to school of drinks applies to packed lunches only, as children on school meals are provided with a drink.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed annually or earlier should further changes to provision be required.

Conclusion

We hope this School Meals Policy is clear and concise and that it enables parents/carers to manage school dinner money without incurring debt. At the same time we aim to ensure that all the school budget is available for the education of the children in our care.

Policy Reviewed: April 2026