



# **BLAKENEY, PILLOWELL AND WALMORE HILL SCHOOLS' FEDERATION**

## **SCHOOL MEAL DEBT POLICY**

<b>Date of policy</b>	<b>Autumn 2023</b>
<b>Review date</b>	<b>Autumn 2024</b>
<b>Staff responsible</b>	<b>Business Manager</b>

## **Equalities Statement**

Blakeney, Pillowell and Walmore Hill Schools' Federation provides an education for all, acknowledges the society in which we live, and is enriched by the ethnic, cultural and religious diversity of its citizens. The school strives to ensure that the culture and ethos of the school are such that, whatever the heritage, origins, faith, age, gender, sexuality and ability of members of the school community, everyone has the right to equal chances, is equally valued and treats one another with respect so that all pupils and staff are encouraged and supported in achieving their full potential. We provide pupils with opportunities to experience, understand and celebrate diversity, actively tackle all instances of unlawful discrimination and strive for equality of opportunity and good relationships to permeate all aspects of school life:

- attainment, progress and assessment
- behaviour, discipline and exclusion
- admission and attendance
- curriculum
- personal development and pastoral care
- teaching and learning
- working with parents / carers and communities
- staff recruitment and professional development

## **Safeguarding Statement**

The Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) are responsible for Safeguarding in each school and there are Deputies who are responsible if the DSL is not on site. They liaise with the named Safeguarding Governor. We will follow the procedures for child protection drawn up by the Local Authority and the Governing Body.

If any person suspects that a child in the school may be the victim of abuse, they should not try to investigate, but should immediately inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead about their concerns.

When investigating incidents or suspicions, the person responsible in the school for child protection works closely with social care, and with the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership. We handle all such cases with sensitivity, and we attach paramount importance to the interests of the child.

We require all adults who work in school to have their application vetted by the police, in order to check that there is no evidence of offences involving children or abuse. (DBS, Barred and Prohibition Checks).

All the adults in our school share responsibility for keeping our children safe. We may, on occasion, report concerns which, on investigation, prove unfounded. It is better to be safe than sorry and we trust that parents and carers, while they will naturally be upset, will nevertheless accept that the school acted in the child's best interests.

## **Accessibility Statement**

We will strive to ensure that the ethos of the school is such that everyone is equally valued and treated with respect. Pupils will be provided with opportunities to experience, understand and value diversity.

All pupils should have access to an appropriate education that gives them the opportunity to achieve their personal potential, whatever their abilities and needs might be.

For further information, please see Safeguarding Policy.

Blakeney, Pillowell and Walmore Hill Schools' Federation has 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 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 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.

Parent/s must pay in advance for the school lunch using any of the methods of payment outlined below:

- Parents can pay on-line using ParentPay. This will be our preferred method of payment
- PayPoint payments
- Cash/Cheque

Children will not be provided with a school lunch unless it is paid for in advance, 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 the 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 come to school with the money. Otherwise they must provide sandwiches before lunch time or arrange to take their child home for lunch – no further school dinner will be provided until the debt is paid.

If 3 school meals are provided without advance payment within 1 term, the Head Teacher reserves the right to withdraw school meals for that child until further notice