

Managing Parent Debt at Shinewater

Our vision at Shinewater is to be a debt free school. We understand that times are challenging for many of us, but it is crucial that we all fulfill our financial obligations to ensure the smooth functioning of the school. We also understand that debt can cause strain and we have therefore developed systems in school to try to prevent parents acquiring debt.

All debt will be held to belong to the payee on parentpay.

Wrap around

Must be booked and paid in advance. Any parent/carer wanting to book on the day will be asked to top up their ParentPay account so that no debt is accumulated.

If a child is booked in for emergency care a phone call will be made to explain the debt and a request will be made for it to be cleared. A letter will be sent to follow this up.

School dinners

All dinners must be booked and paid in advance. Any parent/carer who owes the school money on ParentPay for unpaid dinners will be called and asked to pay the balance before more meals are taken. If more than one meal is owed to the school an email will also be sent to the parent/carer to ask them to either pay the balance or bring a packed lunch the following day. If a parent/carer has not paid for the meal or provided a packed lunch for the next day then the parent/carer will be called again. If no meal or funds are provided by the parent/carer then a school packed lunch will be provided so the child is fed. The parent/carer will be written to so they are aware of this.

Nursery

Invoices will be sent to parents to show what debt will accrue on ParentPay across the term for the sessions they have booked. Parents are encouraged to pay this in advance or in weekly instalments as nursery debt must be paid in full by the end of each term. Attendance of paid sessions will be dependent on bills being paid on time. Any parent who is unable to pay the debt will be prevented from attending any sessions that are not fully funded until the debt is cleared. Payment plans can be made available.

We acknowledge that everyone's circumstances are different. If you are experiencing genuine financial difficulties, we encourage you to reach out to our administration office. We are committed to supporting our school community and will be more than willing to explore suitable arrangements to facilitate debt repayment.

Please note that failure to engage with the school may result in any debt being sent to Swale for formal debt collection.