



Education Catering Service

School Lunches

School lunch is an important aspect of the school day. Not only does it provide children with a nutritionally balanced meal, it embraces their social and personal development.

How does my child choose their lunch?

First thing in the morning, the children select their meal using the school clever touch. The teacher will remind children about the menu options, but it helps, if parents of the younger children, have discussed this with them before they arrive.



Menus

There's a broad variety of choice and children rarely struggle to find something they like. All children are issued with a menu, but you can also check online. Online menu

Recipes online

Many of the items on the menu can be made at home. To access the recipes, click on the food item in the online menu and you will be taken to another page to view the ingredients and method for making the item yourself. Parents often comment that their child has enjoyed something unexpected at school. These online recipes also display important allergen and nutritional information.

A daily School Meal menu offers:

- two hot main course choices with accompanying vegetable and carbohydrate choices
- the sandwich platter provides items making it an excellent alternative to a home pack lunch
- soup is available 3 times a week
- pudding choices include fresh fruit and yogurt daily
- a selection of breads are included with a school lunch meal
- fresh drinking water is freely available with lunch

My Child has Allergies/ Intolerance

Parents should be aware that they can request dietary assistance for their children if there are medical or religious reasons for doing so. Children who require Medically Prescribed or Modified Diets, with parental/guardian assistance, should be identified during the admission process. Procedures are set in motion to accommodate these diets by parent/guardian completing Admission Form D available from the school administration office. The School Management Team and the Catering staff will be happy to discuss your requirements.

Special Events and Celebrations

The children enjoy eating together and we encourage learning and wellbeing throughout lunchtime. Occasionally we celebrate special dates. The option for a packed lunch still applies but they are encouraged to sit with the school lunches to celebrate the event.

How do I pay for Lunches?

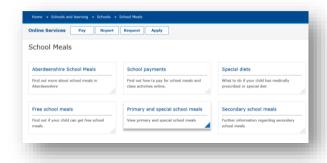
Lunches are free for children in P1-3. Lunches P4-7 must be paid for online by accessing the myaberdeenshire portal – <u>aberdeenshire.gov.uk/my</u> at the upper right hand corner of the Aberdeenshire Council home page. This is very easy to do online using a mobile phone, iPad or laptop. It is very important to keep this account in credit as failure to do so triggers a time- consuming process for the School Catering service. We aim to support the wider Authority to be debt free and require your support in this by ensuring you remember to top-up **before** sending your child for school meals.

Am I entitled to free school meals?

Click on the link to find a leaflet that explains the free school entitlement and how to go about it. Free School Meals Leaflet

Online payments system aberdeenshire.gov.uk/my

Although you may not have a child in P4-7 we do encourage all parents to set up an account. Information on setting up an account can be found here <u>Link to payment set up</u>



What happens if I don't pay?

It's understandable that you may not appreciate the additional workload non-payment of lunches can create. Unfortunately, non-payment triggers a notification to our team members alerting them to the fact that there's no credit available. The catering team may discuss the matter with the Senior Management, and they will work together to resolve the matter. The impact on the Admin Team also impacts on their ability to ensure other essential tasks are carried out.

What do I do if I can't pay?

We are here to support families so please let us know if you are unable to pay and we can do whatever we can to assist you. We understand that families lead busy lives meaning lunch payments are forgotten about or not prioritised. If you feel you can't pay, please look at the <u>free school meal leaflet</u>. If this doesn't apply to you, please let us know and we will work together with schools and do whatever we can to assist you.

For further information or questions please feel free to contact your school catering team or the Education Catering Service. primary.meals@aberdeenshire.gov.uk