

Finance Information

ParentPay

At Selwood we ask parents to use a payment system called ParentPay; this is an online method of payment, which is like internet shopping. Parents and carers access their personal account with a secure username and password to pay for various school items using a debit or credit card. Selwood Academy do not charge for the use of this system and it is an easy, safe and convenient way to pay.

You can use ParentPay to pay for items such as:

- School dinners, snacks and drinks
- Day trips, residential trips and swimming
- Other activities such as mufti days and fundraising

By using ParentPay you can help us to manage the school income efficiently and it also provides you with a quick, worry-free way to pay for items. Please see your ParentPay letter which details the activation codes you need to be able to set up your account. If you would like a secondary payer account once you have set up your main account please contact the Finance Office.

For more information about setting up and using ParentPay go to <https://www.parentpay.com/>

Uniform

Uniform should be purchased from local Frome based company, Cosmic Monkey, via their website. They stock official Selwood Academy core pullovers, ties, PE tops, shorts and socks. They also stock other optional Selwood Academy uniform such as beanies/caps, long sleeve PE tops, PE trousers and hoodies.

For more information and to place an order please go to <https://www.cosmicmonkey.co.uk/>

Cashless Till System

Selwood uses a cashless till system in the kitchen that runs using biometrics (fingerprints) so that pupils are not required to carry cash. The system creates a code specific to the pupil's fingerprint and is a technology that is used successfully by thousands of schools around the country. Please see the Biometric FAQs information on our website for further details and make sure you complete the Google consent form in good time. Should you have any concerns or wish to discuss a possible alternative to this system please contact the Finance Office.

Parents/carers are responsible for:

- Adding funds to the pupil's account via ParentPay in good time – please be aware that top-ups may not show instantly
- Monitoring the balance on the account – if there are not enough funds we will do our best to contact you

To complete the biometrics consent form please go to <https://forms.gle/TyRMMcp2UYWXN2rw5>

Free School Meals

Is your child entitled to Free School Meals?

If you receive any of the following benefits, your child may be entitled to Free School Meals:

- Income Support
- Employment & Support Allowance (Income Related) – not Contribution related
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance – not Contribution based
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, providing you do not also receive Working Tax Credit, with an annual taxable income (as assessed by HMRC) of less than £16,190
- Universal Credit with an annual household income of less than £7,400

How to claim Free School Meals

If you would like to find out if your child is eligible for Free School Meals the quickest way to apply is online at www.somerset.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals. Please note that just completing the form does not entitle your child to free meals – we must have confirmation from the Entitlements Team at Somerset County Council that your child has been approved as eligible. If you need any further advice, please call the Free School Meals team at Somerset County Council on 0300 123 2224.

Food available to those on Free School Meals

Pupils who are entitled to Free School Meals are allocated £2.80 at lunchtime each school day for their main meal and a pudding (excludes drinks). Pupils may select from a cooked meal, vegetarian dish, a light meal alternative, salad bar with fillings for jacket potatoes or fresh sandwiches.

Parents/carers can also top up the child's account through ParentPay to pay for extras such as snacks and drinks at morning break time and lunchtime.

Selwood Academy Activity Voucher Scheme

Selwood Academy prides itself on providing the same opportunities to all pupils; this is why we run the Selwood Academy Activity Voucher Scheme.

All pupils who are entitled to Free School Meals will receive a virtual voucher for a maximum of £50; the total voucher amount is dependent on when eligibility for Free School Meals starts within the school year. The voucher can be used towards any school trip or activity (including residential trips, swimming lessons, music lessons, or paid for after school clubs). Please contact the Finance Office if you would like to check whether your child is entitled and how much there is on the voucher.

Uniform Claim for Free School Meals Pupils

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals you can apply to the school for a grant to obtain a core pullover, tie and PE top from our uniform supplier. Parents can submit one claim per year per child. If your child is eligible for Free School Meals and you wish to apply for the uniform items you need please contact the Finance Office to request a claim form.