

Secondary School Meals Payment System

How the Cashless Catering system works

Cashless Catering operates for most food services in all secondary schools and is accessed via your National Entitlement Card* (NEC). These cards provide secure access to your account where value is retained on the system and not the card. Value can be added to your account through coin or note – however, we do encourage cheque (please put pupil name and class on the back) payments to any value (payable to **Perth & Kinross Council**) as this negates the need for you to carry cash or to have to **queue** at revaluation machines.

Revaluation machines are conveniently located within the school. These machines take coins (£2.00, £1.00, 50p, 20p and 10p) and at least one machine in your school will accept notes (£20.00, £10.00 and £5.00) also.

All payments & expenditure can be fully tracked on request. Balances can be accessed at the revaluation machines at any time and itemised transactions are on display through customer readers at all till points.

Free meal recipients have value added each day automatically – any unused free meal allowance is removed daily. Pupils with a free meal allowance can also add their own money – this money remains on the card until it is spent.

If you think you may be entitled to free school meals – refer to the Council's web site www.pkc.gov.uk under the Education pages – latest qualifying info and application forms are there – alternatively, telephone 01738 476324. Free school meals anonymity is provided through the **cashless catering** system as all users are equal.

* If you have not yet applied for your NEC or you lose it – don't worry. See your Cook in Charge who will be able to provide you with a temporary card. You may be asked to provide proof of name and class. If you do continue to lose your temporary card then second and subsequent replacements may attract a small charge to cover our costs. NEC's are replaced free of charge (currently) through the NEC helpline - 0870 428 8243.