

Somerset school saves money by reducing food waste

Bishop Henderson CofE school on going cashless:

Guy Wolfenden, School Premises Manager at Bishop Henderson C of E Primary School in Taunton, shares how the school has benefitted from going cashless: "Collecting payments online has allowed parents to provide donations towards trips and visits, as well as select and pay for meals at a time of their choosing, which has been a great help to parents as it's so convenient. ParentPay has been a very positive step for the school."

Guy adds: "Having ParentPay in place has vastly reduced the amount of money being moved around the school, which in turn has assisted in complying with audit requirements."

How has using ParentPay benefitted school catering?

There are many different features available in ParentPay which can be utilised depending on the requirements of the school: "Using the online booking facility for meals has enabled the school to reduce its food waste significantly, which has enabled us to introduce more interesting and varied menus."

Guy continues: "The reporting module shows the meals which have been booked, this has been a great benefit to our chef, as well as helping our lunch time staff ensure each child receives the meal they have selected."

How have parents found the change?

Ensuring parents are on board is key: "Allowing parents to pay for items at their convenience, as well as offering the opportunity for part payments over a period of time has been very warmly welcomed." Guy says.

"We have also found, by using ParentPay as our main email communication tool, it enabled a higher percentage of parents to engage with the system. In addition to this, parents like the flexibility of partial payments for visits and trips as it allows them to budget efficiently and spread the cost easily."

How Bishop Henderson did it...

Each school may have a different cashless plan depending on their aims and objectives. Guy offers his advice based on Bishop Henderson's cashless experience: "We staggered the process of engagement. We started with KS2 pupils as they were to pay for meals. This reduced the level of administration initially, and allowed everyone the opportunity to get used to the process. After half term, we then rolled out ParentPay to KS1 and reception classes."

Objective:

Reduce the amount of cash in school to comply with audit requirements.
Reduce food wastage.
Offer flexibility for parents.

Solution:

Collect payments online.
Introduce online booking facility.

Outcomes:

Reduced meal admin. Less food waste equals more varied menus. Convenient for parents.



“ParentPay has enabled the school to reduce its food waste significantly”

Guy Wolfenden
School Premises Manager
Bishop Henderson CofE
Primary School