

Information for school food for Open Events & Parents Evenings



Value for Money

Children get 2 courses and 2 sides i.e. salad from a salad bar and bread, with a drink of water for £2.30.

Where else can you get that value? Even a Happy Meal is over £2.49 and **our** menu is healthy and balanced and complies with School Food Standards (nutrition).

- Main course - 3-4 choices, unless it's a small school or the school has asked for less
- Desserts - 3 choices (main dessert, fruit, organic yoghurt)

Ingredient quality – animal welfare – sustainable supply

Our purpose is to provide students with high quality, healthy and affordable food choices, helping them to perform well in school

- Over 75% of our dishes are freshly prepared from unprocessed ingredients
- We comply with the purchasing principles of the DEFRA Government Buying Standards for Food and Catering Services
- Our vegetables and potatoes are fresh and whole except for peas, sweetcorn and chips which are frozen.
- All our chicken, pork and beef is UK Farm Assured Red Tractor
- Our meat is of a high standard, even our beef mince is steak mince (5% fat only. Many caterers use 12%)
- Our eggs are from Free Range hens
- Our yoghurts are organic
- Our fish fingers are fortified with Omega 3 and our tuna is dolphin friendly. No fish from the Marine Stewardship Council 'fish to avoid' list is served
- Our suppliers are vetted, fully traceable and many are local in order to minimise food miles including fruit, vegetables and salads from Liveseys, bread from Morris Bakers, cheese from Dewlays, fish from Youngs in Grimsby, YPO and Brakes
- Our food does not contain nuts (although we can't guarantee certain ingredients haven't been processed in a factory that has handled nuts)
- Our ingredients are free of artificial additives, colourings and mechanically recovered meat

Healthy and balanced

We comply with the School Food Standards from the DFE regarding nutrition in children's diets

- All our Primary schools have achieved '**Excellent**' in the '**Greater Manchester Healthier Catering Award**'
- Children can choose up to 5 portions of fruit and vegetables per day. The salad bar helps with this, but one dessert is always fruit and another dessert has fruit in it most of the week, plus there are always 1-2 hot vegetable choices each day
- We work closely with NHS nutritionists

- All our desserts on the core menu are vegetarian
- We will also have a separate gluten free, dairy free and vegan menu and provide other Special Diets when requested in advance. All Special Diets are provided in line with Allergen legislation.
- We have a formal allergen process which is detailed over the page

October menu - innovations

Our new menu includes innovative new dishes so children can try new foods if they wish, as well as a combination of tried and tested popular dishes

- Each school, unless it has chosen less, will have 4 main choices
- The bread will be fresh baked bread rolls
- We hope to go back to full salad bars with 6 choices a day (after the pandemic)
- The schools have been given a greater choice to fit the needs of their children more closely

Staff

All our Kitchen Supervisors are craft trained chefs and have the opportunity to conduct further development through Apprenticeships.

- We steam, bake, roast using Combination ovens in the main. We do not fry and most of our kitchens have had the fryers removed
- We do not add salt or saturated fat when cooking
- Our staff are friendly, focused on giving your child their first choice and an enjoyable meal experience
- Our staff are paid a Living Wage and have a quality range of benefits including a GMPF pension which reduces staff turnover and maximises the benefit of training

Cleanliness

Our kitchens achieve 5 stars from Environmental Health and they are monitored regularly by the Catering Management Team.

Special days

We carry out Special days to add a bit of fun to the school dining experience and to encourage pupils to try school meals. We usually have a competition running on our Facebook page. Please visit our Facebook page **Schools Catering Service – Bury Council**