

SUMMARY OF IMPACT

- * *Simpler menu description (chocolate brownies not beet-root and chocolate brownies)*
- * *Pictures on menu so that children know what they are ordering*
- * *Portion size questioned*
- * *Question of seconds for older children raised with contractor*
- * *Training for catering staff, particularly with regard to the Special School*
- * *Arrangements for drinks modified so that free school meal children weren't identified*
- * *To revamp a school's dining area in the capital programme for 2012/2013*
- * *Revisited the contractors systems for monitoring the service*

BRACKNELL FOREST COUNCIL

Seymour House

38 Broadway

Bracknell

RG12 1AU

The working group would like to thank:

The following Schools for their

Contributions to this review:

Binfield C of E Primary School

Birch Hill Primary school

Wild Ridings Primary School

Brackenhale School

Easthampstead Park School

Kennel Lane School

Also the children who filled in the questionnaires. They were very generous with their time, enthusiasm and help.

Janette Karklins, Director CYPL

David Watkins; Chief Officer, Performance and Resources

Andrew Lipscomb, JSS Bracknell Team

Facility Services, Education

School Meals Review Children's, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Panel



BRACKNELL FOREST
COUNCIL

The Borough of opportunity

Increasing Take-up of School Meals

Cllr Gill Birch

Cllr Denise Whitbread

Mark Phillips



School Meals catering Background information



The council contracts the school meals service on behalf of schools.

A total of 27 Primary, 1 Special School and 1 Secondary School participate in the administered contract for school meals with ISS Education.

Three Primary Schools make their own arrangements. College Town Infants and Junior use an external contractor and Binfields use their own in house service.

Six Primary Schools have meals transported in from other kitchens. All six secondary Schools have their own arrangements for school meals with different contractors.

The uptake of Primary School meals is currently 30.7% of the school role in 2009/2010 compared to the National average of 40%.

The Council would like to see uptake of meals increase.

What is the concern?

By eating a school meal pupils benefit through:

- ◆ Improved concentration, behavior and general health and well being, leading to improved attainment
- ◆ Sitting down at a table with other children helps develop social skills
- ◆ Provision of a more nutritious meal than many packed lunches Saves parents and carers time in preparing a packed lunch
- ◆ The variety of foods allows children to try a range of foods they may not have experienced at home

Generally all the children enjoyed their meals. Here are some of the observations they made:

- 'I love buying chocolate milk!'
- 'It is difficult to clean the hall floor of food bits and we have to sit on the floor for assembly. I would love another hall just for assemblies.'
- 'Change the colour of the walls in the hall to pink so everyone is quieter!'
- 'My dinner always tastes good.'

Observations

- One school used tablecloths so the tables stayed cleaner. The children were quieter.
- Most children thought the meals were tasty.
- Some children thought the meals could look more inviting
- Some children thought the vegetables were overcooked
- At one school there was not enough time to queue for dinner and eat it
- Year 6 have the same sized portions as year R

Questionnaire Report

Councilors' visited six schools and ate a meal with the children. The asked the children to fill in a questionnaire about their school dinner and arrangements for lunchtime.

These are the key areas covered by the Questionnaire:

1. How the lunch break is organized
2. Quality and choice of food
3. Any ideas for improvement from children, staff and members

Thirty children filled in the questionnaires with us.