BURY CATERING

Perhaps to you a lunch at school is just school dinners and the catering staff are just dinner ladies, but is there more to them than that? If your child has a school lunch, they will experience a service that is not only compliant with School Food Standards (nutritional guidelines) and complies with the Government Buying Standards for Food and Catering Services from DEFRA but is also a service that is committed to protecting the planet through our Good Food Charter and Climate Plan. In recognition of this we have recently been awarded both the Greater Manchester Healthier Catering Award and the Sustainable Food Places Award.

YES, YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL CATERING SERVICE IS AWARD WINNING!

But we aren't stopping there, we are also working towards Food for Life from the Soil Association. When assessed for cleanliness, the same as commercial restaurants, our kitchen teams achieve five stars from Environmental Health.

All of our food is cooked freshly each day, and our dishes are cooked from a very high quality of fresh whole ingredients. We are genuinely not-for-profit and focused on the health of your child. Our menus are agreed, taking feedback from each school, as we want them to work with us to get the service right for them. We steam, bake, roast using combination ovens. 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 service is completely nut free.

Let us not forget our conscientious catering staff who kept fifty-eight kitchens open during the pandemic and made sure all children received a hot balanced meal, including those with additional needs. They are not just dinner ladies, because all our Kitchen Supervisors and Managers, men and women, are trained to City and Guilds 706/1 & 2 or NVQ 2 & 3, the same as Chefs in the wider hospitality industry, and they receive regular refreshers on food safety for children, safeguarding, special diets and allergies, to name a few. To keep them and maintain a stable organisation of 270 staff we pay them the Real Living Wage as a minimum, and offer them a Greater Manchester Pension, along with other benefits.

One or two of our catering staff have been with us since 1974, when we first started. How many people do you know who have worked for the same organisation for 48 years? Our staff are friendly, focused on giving your child their first choice and an enjoyable meal experience.

School lunches in term time or food for children in the holidays is always in the news and is a big part of social and welfare policy for the Government. School budgets are influenced by the number of children who apply for a benefit entitled free school meal. And the better the school budget, the better the education your child will receive.
There is currently a call from the Local Government Association to raise the threshold so that more parents can be entitled to a free school meal and for automatic enrolment. Universal Infant Free School Meals are also in place. If you want to know more and get support with applying, speak with your child's school or the Free School Meal team on 0161 253 5858.

We focus on pre-ordering to ensure your child gets something they want to eat. We have introduced a new system called School Grid which allows you to order your child's meals together at home from an app on your mobile or tablet.

SURVEY RESULTS AND FUN LUNCHES

Nationally we know that 83% of pupils have a school meal at least once a week and over half of children in the UK are having a school meal every day. That is why we conduct our fun lunches, to encourage more pupils to have a school meal. Please visit our facebook page Schools Catering Service – Bury Council because we usually have a competition linked to the event.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO JOIN OUR TEAM

We are always looking for motivated people to join our team. Our rates of pay are excellent, and hours are usually term-time only. Full on-job training is offered and there are opportunities to work towards nationally recognised qualifications and rise through the ranks. Vacancies are advertised on Greater. Jobs under <Education- School>, <Bury Council>, <Catering>. If you have any problems, you can contact us on 0161 253 5710.

AIMS

Our aim is to provide a positive food experience which gives parents value for money and peace of mind that our meals are healthy and focused on your child and the planet.

PARENT FEEDBACK

"My son Joe had a problem with swallowing when he started in Nursery. The Kitchen Manager, Shelley, didn't hesitate to agree to puree his food and gradually increased the consistency. By the time Joe left Primary he was able to join his friends in eating pretty much anything on the menu. Shelley should be proud of what she achieved with my son. I could not have got there alone. She looked after him as if he were her own." - A parent.

"I was at my wits end when my son went to school because he only likes certain food because of his autism. I wasn't sure about paying for school meals at first but neither did I have any hope of packed lunches for him. Once we started on hot dinners though, Ian, the Kitchen Manager sat down with him on a Monday and together they looked at the menu and agreed what he wanted to eat for the week. This had a huge impact on him and now he looks forward to lunchtime and goes back to class happy and more settled. It was worth paying for school meals." - A parent.

"It was important to us that the school dinner service was completely nut free when we chose to use it because my daughter Lissa has a nut allergy. Anna, the Cook, has been trained to level 2 in allergens and takes pains to double check every delivery so that we know Lissa will be safe. If it wasn't for Anna I would have to make packed lunches every day. Bread, bread and more bread. I also work full time and this just would not have been possible." - A parent.

CONTACT US

To find out more about school meals or to make any comments please contact us on
0161 253 5710 catering@bury.gov.uk.
Please visit our facebook page Schools Catering Service – Bury Council.