

LOVE SCHOOL — Meals —

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT SCHOOL MEALS
West Sussex

New beginnings

Whether starting school for the first time or entering a new year group, the new school year brings a fresh start with lots of exciting, and sometimes daunting, new experiences for children. Lunchtimes are a really fun part of the school day with lots of different, delicious and healthy foods for children to enjoy. This leaflet is about making sure you're absolutely up to date with everything you need to know about school meals.



Who are CHARTWELLS?

We are the leading provider of catering services to schools in the UK and serve over 2,000 schools across the country.

All our meals are healthy, tasty and nutritious, supporting childrens' development in school. Each one is freshly prepared by a dedicated and passionate team of chefs and kitchen staff. Our philosophy is Eat, Learn, Live which ensures we educate young people about how to lead a happy, safe and healthy lifestyle while contributing to a sustainable world.



Brilliant Value

We believe that enjoying a nutritious hot meal at lunch time is always better than a packed lunch...and it's even better when it's free!

How do school meals compare to packed lunches?

On average the saving of switching to school meals from packed lunches is £400 throughout the school year – and this doesn't account for the amount of time you would save too! Not only this, but school meals are nutritionally balanced and studies have shown that children who eat a school meal are more effective in the classroom during the afternoon.

Save £400
a year
on average



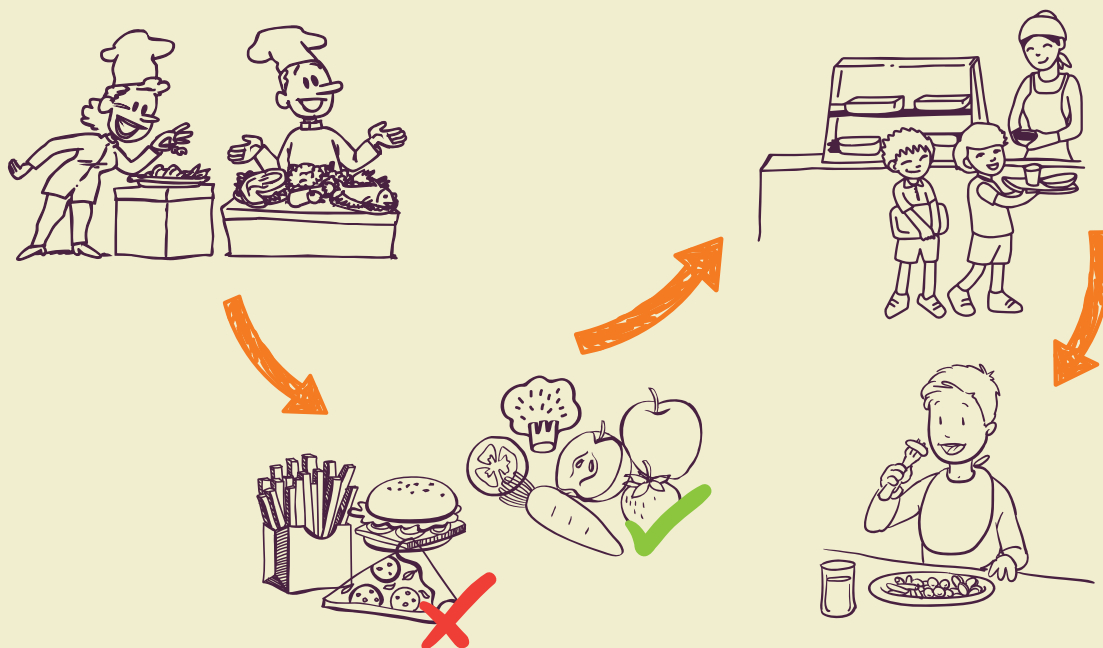
Did you know that if your child is starting Reception, or heading in to Year 1 or 2 that they are entitled to a free meal, every day?

All things nutrition

We know that the health and wellbeing of your child is paramount when they are at school, especially when it comes to lunchtime. At Chartwells we have a dedicated team of Nutritionists across the country who make sure that the food we serve at school is the most nutritious as possible.

School meals by law must meet the School Food Standards. These ensure that when menus are developed they are considerate of children's nutritional needs. Implementing these standards

ensures that healthier food items, like fruit and vegetables, wholegrains and oily fish, are promoted, and less healthy items, like deep fried foods, manufactured meat products and added sugar drinks are restricted or prohibited on menus. Every day, you can be assured that a school meal will offer; 2 portions of fruit and vegetables, a dairy food item rich in calcium for strong bones and teeth, starchy carbohydrates to provide energy, and a protein source to support the body's growth and repair.



Variety is the spice of life

All of our main meals and desserts have been sampled by groups of children and are in-line with the School Food Standards portion size recommendations. Our menus are planned specifically for each area, based on local preference and always include children's favourites such as cheese & tomato pizza, pasta bolognese, weekly roast dinners and fruit sponge and custard.

'I can't believe the impact that eating with school friends at lunchtime has had on my son. He talks of food that he's eaten that I have never been able to get him to eat at home, and as a result, we now all enjoy mealtimes as a family.' Will Taylor
(Parent), Year One Pupil

Please refer to a copy of your schools menu for the daily options available.

Frequently Asked Questions

We know that starting a new school can be a daunting experience for little ones. We have compiled some frequently asked questions below to reassure you that your child's dining experiences at school will be positive ones!

My child is new to the school and is in reception or KS1, how do I pay for school meals?

In 2014, the Government introduced free school meals for all children in the UK in reception and years 1 and 2. This means that any child in these year groups are entitled to a delicious hot meal free of charge. Please contact your child's school or school catering manager for more details.

I want my child to start having school meals, where can I find the menu?

Our menus are displayed on the board in the schools reception and on the schools website, and we will also send menu flyers home in children's book bags. Additionally, look out for menus at www.mealselector.co.uk

What is included in a school meal?

Each school meal consists of a protein item (either meat, fish or vegetarian options), vegetables (e.g. broccoli/sweetcorn/carrots), a starchy carbohydrate (e.g. pasta/rice/potato), and a pudding.

Will my child be able to switch between having a homemade packed lunch and a school meal?

Yes. As school meals are not mandatory, you are able to switch between packed lunches and school meals. Remember though that school meals are free to those children in reception and years 1 & 2, and provide a nutritionally balanced, delicious meal. Please note some schools have local policies regarding meal ordering so please check this with your school before placing orders.

I want my child to be able to have school meals but they have an allergy/require a special diet. Do you cater for special diets?

Yes. Our dedicated team of nutritionists work with our teams to create menus for those children that suffer with

allergies or require a special diet. A special diet is a requirement different to the choices offered within the menu cycle, which are medically required or due to religious beliefs. For medically required diets all requests are to be supported by a GP/Dietitian letter confirming the allergy, this enables our nutrition team to develop a suitable menu for your child.

Contact: westsussexspecialdiets@compass-group.co.uk

My child is nervous about eating in the dining hall. I want to be able to reassure them by talking them through the dining hall experience. How does the dining hall work and who will my child be sitting with?

The dining hall may be a daunting place for a new starter but there is nothing to be worried about! Children eat with their class mates and are led in to the dining hall by year group by a supervisor who will also make sure they get their meals and take it to their tables. Supervisory staff are also on hand to ensure the lunchtime is a safe and enjoyable experience.


My child is very particular about what they eat. Will my child be able to get a school meal they like? And what would happen if they do not like the meal they choose?

Menus are available to parents to talk about daily food choices. Although all our schools are different we offer additional choices in most schools such as a jacket potato option, fresh fruit and yoghurt as a pudding alternative. Staff soon understand the likes and dislikes of pupils and help them make choices on a daily basis.

Our research shows that children will often try new foods when their friends are eating the same items, this often leads to pupils enjoying more foods leading to a wider and more varied diet.

LOVE
SCHOOL
— Meals —

Stay up to date with all the important news on your school meals service by visiting www.loveschoolmeals.co.uk

 @loveschoolmeals

 Find us on
Facebook

Get in touch

Chartwells West Sussex, Unit 2,
Lincoln House, Tangmere,
Chichester, West Sussex, PO20
2FS



01243 836130
73041@compass-group.co.uk




Chartwells
EAT LEARN LIVE

WEEK 1

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

Try something different!

Trying new and different foods is a great way of getting all the nutrition your body needs

HOT SPECIALS...

Beef Bolognese

Macaroni Cheese 

Roast Chicken in Gravy with Roast Potatoes

Sausages & Mash

Fish & Chips

Available every day!

Water
Milk
Fresh bread

DAILY FAVES...

Jacket Potato
with tuna & cucumber mayo

Jacket Potato
with cheese 

Butternut Squash & Chickpea Curry & Rice  

Quorn Sausage & Bean Hotpot 

Cauliflower & Sweetcorn Bake with Roast Potatoes 

Cheese & Tomato Pasta 

Omelette & Chips 

SIDES...

Green Beans and Salad


Baby Carrots & Sweetcorn and Salad

Seasonal Cabbage & Carrot Mix

Mixed Vegetables and Salad

Baked Beans and Salad

PICK A PUD!


Yoghurt & Granola
Fruit Salad 




Melon & Orange Cocktail 
Fruit Salad 

Oat & Honey Shortbread
Fruit Salad 

Apple & Mango Drizzle Sponge 
Fruit Salad 

Gingerbread Cookie
Fruit Salad 

Look out for these symbols for our super healthy dishes:  Vegetarian

 Fruity!  Wholegrain  Oily fish

Allergy? Speak to our kitchen for help

WEEK 2

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

Try something different!

Trying new and different foods is a great way of getting all the nutrition your body needs

HOT SPECIALS...

Cheese & Tomato Pizza 

Sausages & Mash

Roast Beef in Gravy with Roast Potatoes

Macaroni Cheese 

Fish & Chips

Available every day!

Water
Milk
Fresh bread



DAILY FAVES...

Creamy Chicken Pasta

Jacket Potato
with tuna & sweetcorn mayo

Bean & Lentil Casserole 

Quorn Balls in Gravy with Roast Potatoes 

Jacket Potato
with Quorn bolognese 

Vegetable Masala & Rice  

Quorn Burger in a Bun & Chips 

SIDES...

Peas & Sweetcorn **and** Salad

Green Beans **and** Salad

Seasonal Cabbage & Carrot Mix

Mixed Vegetables **and** Salad

Baked Beans **and** Salad

PICK A PUD!


Muesli Flapjack
Fruit Salad 




Banana Marble Cake & Custard 
Fruit Salad 

Melon & Orange Cocktail 
Fruit Salad 

Gingerbread Cookie
Fruit Salad 

Yoghurt & Fruit Slices 
Fruit Salad 

Look out for these symbols for our super healthy dishes:  Vegetarian

 Fruity!  Wholegrain  Oily fish

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WEEK 3

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

Try something different!

Trying new and different foods is a great way of getting all the nutrition your body needs

HOT SPECIALS...

Chicken Korma & Rice 🌿

Cheese & Tomato Pizza 🍃

Roast Ham in Gravy with Roast Potatoes

Beef Burger in a Bun with Baked Beans

Fish & Chips

Available every day!

Water
Milk
Fresh bread

DAILY FAVES...

Jacket Potato
with cheese 🍃

Cheese & Tomato Pasta 🍃

Jacket Potato
with Quorn bolognese 🍃

Salmon & Broccoli Pasta

Quorn Sausage in Gravy with Roast Potatoes 🍃

Jacket Potato
with baked beans 🍃

Butternut Squash & Chickpea Curry & Rice 🌿 🍃

Veggie Nuggets & Chips 🍃

SIDES...

Mixed Vegetables and Salad

Green Beans and Salad

Seasonal Cabbage & Carrot Mix

Peas & Sweetcorn and Salad

Baked Beans and Salad

PICK A PUD!

Apple & Mango Drizzle Sponge 🍏

Fruit Salad 🍏

Oat & Honey Shortbread

Fruit Salad 🍏

Melon & Orange Cocktail 🍏

Fruit Salad 🍏

Yoghurt & Fruit Slices 🍏

Fruit Salad 🍏

Banana Marble Cake & Custard 🍏

Fruit Salad 🍏

Look out for these symbols for our super healthy dishes: 🍃 Vegetarian

🍏 Fruity! 🌿 Wholegrain 🐟 Oily fish

Allergy? Speak to our kitchen for help

School Meal Frequently Asked Questions



My child is new to the school and is in reception or KS1, how do I pay for school meals?

In 2014, the government introduced free school meals for all children in the UK in reception and years 1 and 2. This means that children in these years are entitled to a delicious hot meal free of charge. Please contact your child's school for more details.

I want my child to start having school meals, where can I find the menu?

Our menu can be found on the school website alternatively on the meal selector website at www.mealselector.co.uk.

What is included in a school meal?

Each school meal consists of a protein item (either meat, fish or vegetarian option), vegetables or salad, starchy carbohydrate (e.g. pasta/rice/potato), bread, milk or water and a pudding.

Will my child be able to switch between a packed lunch and a school meal?

KS2 pupils are able to switch between packed lunches and school meals. Don't forget school meals are free to those children in KS1. Please be aware that whilst most schools let you switch between packed lunch and school meals some schools have individual policies regarding KS1 meal ordering so please check with your school before placing orders.

I want my child to be able to have school meals but they have an allergy/intolerance/require a special diet. Do you cater for special diets?

Yes. Our dedicated team work to create menus for those children that suffer with allergies/intolerances or require a special diet. A special diet is a requirement different to the choices offered within the menu which are medically required or due to religious beliefs. For medically required diets, all requests are to be supported by a GP/Dietician letter confirming the allergy, this enables our team to develop a suitable menu for your child. Please contact our special diet team at westsussexspecialdiets@compass-group.co.uk.

My child is a fussy eater. Will they be able to get a school meal they like?

Menus are available on your school website for parents to talk through with their children about daily food choices. Our menu is on a 3 week cycle and each day there are 2-3 options available to them.

Our research shows that children will often try new foods when their friends are eating the same items, this often leads to pupils enjoying more foods leading to a wider and more varied diet.



STEAMPLICITY TIMELINE

THE STORY BEHIND CHARTWELLS, WEST SUSSEX

