

## School Food Working Group

### **What does a School Food Working Group do?**

A School Food Working Group (SFWG) brings together individuals from across a school to look at its food culture (what it teaches about food, the food it serves, the messages children receive about food), and develop a plan for improving it. The introduction of universal infant free school meals and the cooking/food education requirement in the new curriculum present a real opportunity to think anew about these issues.

### **Who should be involved?**

The group should include one or more individuals from the following list:

- The headteacher or a member of the senior management team
- Parents
- Governors
- The school catering manager and/or area supervisor
- Midday supervisors
- Class teachers
- Pupils (4-6 has been shown to be a good number).

### **What should the SFWG think about?**

- What is going to make lunchtime most enjoyable for all concerned?
  - Changes to the quality and provision arrangements for school food
  - The quality of the dining experience
- How changes to school meals can be supported throughout the school including in the classroom, the new curriculum is an opportunity to refresh teaching on food in school.
- Whether schemes designed to help schools develop positive food cultures and provide resources, such as the Food for Life Partnership or the Children's Food Trust excellence award, might help you.

### **What are the logistics?**

Typically an SFWG meets once every half term at a time that reflects the working patterns of all those involved e.g. after the lunchtime service). The meetings should be structured in a way to support pupil participation, using break out groups where relevant and creating opportunities for them to speak.

### **How can the whole school be kept informed and involved about the SFWG?**

Use as many methods as possible (assemblies, e-mails and letters home, notice boards – virtual and real etc.) and encourage the pupils to co-ordinate communication, as this

For more information on setting up a school food working group: <http://tinyurl.com/qz65msj>

View the School Food Plan Checklist for Head teachers: <http://tinyurl.com/lg8x4oj>

