

The Importance of a Good School Food Culture

Section 2: Case Study Summaries

Below are just a handful of stories and videos from schools doing amazing things to create a great school food culture. We hope their journeys will inspire you to think about your own school and support your action planning.

Written Case Studies

Primary

Holy Trinity, Bury: The first steps on our food journey: The staff at Holy Trinity are just beginning on their journey to improve their school food culture. With a broad pupil demographic in a deprived area, there are many challenges to overcome. But after piloting this new training session, everyone is now inspired to make a change and Headteacher Marcus Elder has a clear plan of action to deliver lasting improvements through small manageable steps.

Charlton Manor, London: Headteacher's top ten tips for a whole school approach to food: Headteacher Tim Baker has been an inspiration to his school and across the country in promoting the importance of a whole school approach to food. Charlton Manor weaves food across the curriculum, supports the local community food environment and even has beehives!

Washingborough Academy, Lincolnshire: Integrating food education: Four years ago Washingborough had no hot school meal provision. With the headteacher leading the change, they have recruited a chef, involved the local community and made food education central to the culture and ethos of the school. Some of their innovative ideas include an enterprise project "snack shack" and great social media engagement with parents to celebrate the food being grown and served in school.

Hargrave Park, London: Creating a food culture to improve attendance, learning & wellbeing: Hargrave Park School serves a diverse community within an area of high deprivation in Islington. Indeed, 78% of children are entitled to free school meals and a lack of 'school readiness' was identified as a key barrier to learning. But a revamp of the food and dining culture and a universal free breakfast club, funded by Pupil Premium, has helped improve children's attendance, learning and wellbeing.

Secondary

Carshalton Boys Sports College, London: Creating an incredible food culture: Putting food at the centre of school life has helped transform school results from 4% to 60% 5 A*-C (including English and Maths). Carshalton have created an incredible food culture through their food service and food education, including growing fruit and vegetables and keeping chickens!

Dereham Neatherd, Norfolk: Increasing meal take up by 40% through a whole school approach: A school with growing, cooking and healthy eating at the centre of its thinking. Dereham Neatherd has created a great school food culture through strong leadership, proactive caterers, pupil and community involvement, cooking and food growing.

Special Educational Needs

Ravenscliffe High School, Yorkshire: Food central to life at school: This special school for pupils aged 11-19 is committed to offering students the best possible lunchtime and food experience; with a school chef who received BBC Cook of the Year in 2014 (BBC Food & Farming Awards). Food is a focus for enterprise groups involved with the 6th form catering café and lunch clubs within the community, and also sees students working in the main kitchen with the catering team.



The New Rush Hall School, London: The benefits from the school allotment: A special school for children aged between 4 and 16, who have social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. Produce grown in the school allotments is used in school meals and cookery lessons so that pupils can experience every stage of food use, from planting, through to growing, harvesting and eating. There is also a great summary to reflect on 'what the children get out of it'.

Video Case Studies

Overview

The School Food Plan Film (4'48 mins): A must watch if you haven't seen it already, which emphasises why a good school food culture really matters. There is an overview of the actions in the plan and it also shows the importance of increasing the take up of school meals to create a financially viable school food system.

<http://www.schoolfoodplan.com/film/>

Primary

Broadclyst, Devon: The benefits for pupils, staff and parents of family dining (4'45 mins): Hear from Headteacher Jonathan Bishop who speaks to parents, teachers and the school chef about how they made dining central to the school culture. High quality food in a high quality environment has meant they have educated staff, parents and children and influenced the attitudes and future lifestyles of their pupils.

<https://youtu.be/JrtRjrtF0p4>

Bath and Somerset: Tips on improving the dining environment (6'17 mins): Brilliant practical top tips from primary schools in Bath and North East Somerset that have radically improved their pupil's dining experience:

http://youtu.be/7hVEcodwf_8

Secondary

Carshalton Boys, London: Giles Coren (food critic) reviews school lunch (5'11 mins): Putting food at the centre of school life has helped transform school results from 4% to 60% 5 A*-C (including English and Maths). Carshalton have created an incredible food culture through their food service and food education, including growing fruit and vegetables and keeping chickens!

<http://youtu.be/QMgeCA1joEA>

Phoenix High School, Shepherds Bush, London: Farming in urban schools (6'49 mins): Situated on the White City Estate in West London, the sixth most deprived area in the country, with a 25% obesity rate amongst children aged 11 and the worst dental hygiene record in the city. The urban farm teaches both students and parents about the importance of nutritious food and has become a focus for the local community.

<http://youtu.be/AcsKrdYrbKI>

Primary and Secondary

Sharing and Inspiring: Growing, cooking and eating in Bath and North East Somerset schools (4'45mins): Inspiring children to grow, cook and taste food across primary and secondary schools in Bath and North East Somerset. Look out for great practical tips to embed cooking, growing and farm visits into the curriculum

<http://youtu.be/P7XBzCwMVXs>

