

**Ashton Keynes Primary School**  
**Universal Free School Meals**  
**Questions and Answers**

**Who is entitled to a hot free school meal?**

All children in KS1 (Reception, Year 1 and year 2) plus children eligible for pupil premium are entitled to a free school meal.

**How will the increase in hot meals uptake be catered for?**

Cygnet, our hot meal provider, is setting up a new *hub* in Cricklade to cater for the extra meals required. They are confident that the extra requirement will not be an issue. Furthermore, there will be an extra server to ensure children receive meals as quickly as possible and to alleviate any queues for food.

**Will the increase in hot meals affect the school timetable?**

No, the lunch hour will still be from 12pm until 1pm.

**Will all the children have sufficient seating space in the hall?**

Yes - the children are staggered throughout the lunchtime and so do not all enter the hall at the same time. All reception children will be in the first phase and so will be served and seated at 12pm. The other year groups will follow on a rota basis. We have purchased extra seating.

**Will KS2 kids have to wait longer for their lunch?**

Not everyday; the rota changes everyday so KS2 are not always last into the hall.

**What if the children don't eat the food/how is lunch time managed so that children are encouraged to eat?**

The dinner staff in the hall assist children with cutting their food, encourage slower eaters, ensure children eat sufficient amounts of food, etc. We are increasing the number of dinner staff in September.

**Will school dinners be compulsory for KS1?**

No, all children can bring a packed lunch if they prefer.

**Can they still order from the menu as they wish and bring packed lunches on other days?**

Yes, absolutely!

**How is the menu varied?**

There are options for a main meal, vegetarian meal or jacket potato everyday. The options rotate on a 3 week cycle. Please collect a Cygnet menu to view the rota system and the choices available.

**How do I order hot meals?**

You need to complete a hot meals order form **by 9am on Wednesday the week before meals are required.** Cygnet does not allow us to order meals on the day they are required. Forms are available from the school office.

**Can Cygnet cater for allergies/dietary requirements?**

Yes, as long as they are informed they can cater for most/all dietary requirements. These meals are prepared separately and sealed so that they do not come into contact with any other food sources.

**Is the meal and dessert served separately?**

No, unfortunately not. We have considered this option, however it would result in the children having to queue again for their dessert and thus would increase the time they are in the hall. Food is served on compartment trays and the dessert is served at the same time as the meal.

**Is the vegetarian option the same as the main meal except with a quorn substitute? Or is it a completely separate alternative?**

Cygnets use quorn in their vegetarian dishes although the vegetarian option is usually completely different from the main meal. This increases options available to the children.

**How balanced a diet are children receiving? Does Cygnets follow guidance from the Government?**

In accordance with Government Standards, all Cygnets menus for meals provided in schools are nutritionally analysed to confirm compliance with the Schools Food Plan and other Government guidance.

**Are there plenty of vegetables and fresh fruit available?**

Vegetables are offered with all meals, fruit is sometimes offered as a dessert. The school are working with Cygnets to negotiate increased availability of fruit and vegetables without a cost implication to parents.

**Where is the food sourced?**

The following information, provided by Cygnets, maybe helpful with regards to produce and sourcing:

- We purchase produce from suppliers who conform to the Assured Food Standards Red Tractor Scheme.
- We are working towards all our fish being supplied by members of the Marine Stewardship Council which ensures the stocks are maintained and caught in a way that doesn't affect other species.
- All GM products are banned and ingredients are screened for undesirable additives.
- We use an increasing range of fair trade products in our menus.
- Through using consolidated grocery deliveries, we are able to save approximately 620 tonnes of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere.
- Our main supplier uses telematics routing to track the carbon footprint of their vehicles.
- They also use warehouses only powered by green renewable fuels and which harvest rain water used to wash their vehicles.
- Bio fuel in these vehicles has saved over 3,600 tonnes of carbon dioxide in a year
- We use free range eggs in all our menus.

**Is it possible to have a sandwich option rather than a big meal?**

At present this is not an option, but if sufficient numbers express an interest, we can investigate the possibility in the future.

**Are children allowed a second helping if they require one?**

If there is surplus food, second helpings will be made available unless parents advise us against this.

**Are drinks available with hot meals?**

Water is always available in the hall during lunchtimes.