

Overdale School Dinner Survey 2015 - Results

General findings from approximately 100 surveys completed – 75% of which are currently having school dinners, the rest have had dinners in the past.

Children's feedback

1. Just over half the pupils consider school dinners to be ok and 30% consider them to be good.
2. Around half the children said the portion size was "enough" and the other half said it was "too small".
3. Vegetarian children – most said they get a choice of meal or sometimes get a choice. A few said they did not get a choice.
4. Two thirds of children said they would like to have a baked potato and topping option.
5. 60% of children said they leave a small amount of food on their plate while a quarter leaves none.
6. Most children reported they have enough time to eat their lunch.
7. Half of the children said they would like to be offered second helpings on last sitting.
8. Half of the pupils said they liked the new system of eating in a year group.
9. Around one third of children said they would like to use plates instead of 'flight' trays, another third were not sure and 25% said no.
10. Favourite main courses: cheese flan, pizza, sausages, fish, chips, garlic bread.
11. Favourite puddings: chocolate tart, apple crumble, most cakes and cookies, ice-cream & jelly.
12. Least favourite main courses: chicken curry, cheese flan, lamb, lasagne.
13. Least favourite puddings: milk, yoghurt, ginger cake, carrot cake.
14. Preferred fruits: strawberries, oranges, apples, grapes, bananas, pineapple, melon, mango.
15. Favourite salad options in order of preference: Lettuce, cucumber, sweetcorn, carrot, tomato, onion
16. Themed Days: world food including Italian, Mexican (eg fajita, chilli, tacos), Indian, American (hot dogs/burgers), jacket potatoes, pizza, fruit, Sporting themes like World Cup.
17. Changes in the dining hall: children would like more space to sit (change chairs/benches/ tables). Have a bigger hall, larger drinking cups, separate knife/fork trays, no food on the floor/tables. Pictures/music.
18. Comments: Bigger portion sizes, more choice on last sitting. Sit with other year groups. Second helpings. Less noise.

Parents' feedback

1. Approx a fifth of children are vegetarian and eat fish.
2. On a scale of 1-5 half of the parents said their child rated the food 3 or 4. A small number (6) rated the food 1-2 and 17 children said the food was always enjoyable. (scale 5)
3. Two thirds of parents said they talked to their child(ren) about school dinners.
4. Reasons given for swapping from school dinner to packed lunch included: meals too expensive, unhappy with choice of food offered, portions too small, child not enjoying food.
5. Dishes parents would like to see on the menu: Chicken salad wraps, lentils (dahl), chapatti, Yorkshire pudding, healthy burgers, hot dogs, uncoated fish, more variety of fruit & vegetables, risotto.
6. Other comments included: portion sizes too small, some children are still hungry after eating school dinners, more choice on last sitting (especially puddings), milk is not considered to be a 'pudding'. Preference for plates not trays. Bread offered in addition to rice/pasta/potatoes. 2 veg offered.
7. **Open lunchtime invitation to all parents/carers: Thur 23 April and Mon 27 April 12.15- 1.30 pm.** (20 acceptances so far). Everyone welcome to come and see the dining hall in operation, food being served and lunchtime activities. (Outside dining –weather permitting).
8. Specific queries/questions will be answered individually.

Thank you for taking part. We hope to make some positive changes over the coming months.

Karen Cooper School Council Link Teacher/Food Routes Co-ordinator, April 2015