



Bishop Rawstone Parent Forum 2024/25

3rd December 2024 – 1st forum of the year (1 of 3)

Focus – School Catering Changes

<p><i>Staff in attendance:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair – Mr Duckworth – Assistant Headteacher – Pastoral Care, Attendance, Worship, Pupil Premium • Lead Speaker – Ian O Connor and Charlotte Levett - Operations Managers Aspens caterers • Governors – Mrs K Cooper
<p>Meeting began at 5:30pm.</p> <p>Mr Duckworth once again welcomed all for attending and expressed gratitude for regular attendance.</p> <p>The meeting was then handed over to Ian and Charlotte from Aspens to facilitate a discussion regarding the way that the catering has changed at school this year. Feedback has also been canvassed via email and from the students via student voice.</p> <p>This was not the usual style forum with small group discussions rather a Q and A with outcomes for all to look at going forwards.</p> <p>There were several areas of discussion:</p> <p>Do you feel that your child gets value for money from their school meals?</p> <p>The perception is that the prices have risen though it was very clearly argued that this is the case but only in line with inflation and that actually this is because under the previous company prices had remained static. A large hike in price was inevitable at some point – but the food being provided is a better quality as it is over 85% homemade, and actually the price rise is seen to be competitive.</p> <p>There is a need for better menu education – specifically around the meal deals</p> <p>It was felt as an action school could communicate to parents better via the website and other outlets the menus available and the different meal deals and prices – to keep parents and children informed and to allow them to plan their meals.</p> <p>It was also suggested that the company could present to the students what they offer and gather specific feedback from focus groups where appropriate.</p>	



How do you rate the variety of food available from the current menu?

Parents very unaware of the variety of foods available – Children are not passing on the accurate picture of the food that they can access. When it was clarified what you can get there was a feeling what actually the range of choice was very good.

How do your young people feel about the catering provision at Bishop Rawstone?

Much more positive now than a few months ago – the initial changes had been met with a level of resistance but now they are more familiar with the variety available and the different types of food that they like they are in general coming back to the dining room.

Positive feedback for the new grab and go area. This has alleviated queuing issues significantly.

An area of focus that was deeply discussed was the inclusivity of the menu. It was agreed that should particular needs be required the catering team would do what they could to endeavour to provide food for all. Also, there was great discussion about the dining room with regards neuro diverse students.

A lot of discussion about the length of lunchtime, and how longer was needed. Mr Duckworth clarified that this was currently being reviewed.

School has agreed in the spring term to work with SEND team and the neurodivergent students on food education and awareness to help them understand better what is the correct and suitable option for them.

Do you know what the school food plan entails?

A real lack of awareness – link to this here. It explains clearly why portion sizes are the way that they are, and certainly answered questions as to why students get what they do for their price.

<https://www.schoolfoodplan.com/>

Do you know the criteria for free school meal eligibility and how to claim?

This didn't get to be discussed but all Free School Meals information is here:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/>

Meeting closed at 6:30pm prompt

ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK – gathered via email

1, Do you feel that your child gets value for money from their school meals - Scale of 1 to 5 (Low to high) and then reasons for your answer

- I think the pricing seems high, around £70 - £ 75 per month
- Son says it's expensive - £2.20 for a breakfast wrap, sausage rolls smaller.

2, How do you rate the variety of food available from the current menu - Scale of 1 to 5 (poor variety to exceptional variety) and then reasons for your answer

- average choice – 3 - but would prefer more snack type food wraps etc.
- Son would like pies returning to the menu please.

3 – How do your young people feel about the catering provision at Bishop Rawstorne – could you get THEIR views please?

- Generally ok, but most of them tend to grab a snack instead of a sit-down meal. Saying seems high price for the choice
- Son says it's ok but he feels it's overpriced for the amount of food - compared to what it used to be. He says it shouldn't cost £1 for a small choc au pain like you'd get from Aldi, he'd eat 3 and thinks £3 would be too much to spend

4 – Does your child talk about the food provision and the dining room? If so what are their views?

- not very much, except they say there is less snack type food available than before
- Son doesn't use the dining room - days he eats stood up outside as it's full. The queues are a bit better now

5, Do you know what the school food plan entails?

- No
- No

6, Do you know the criteria for free school meal eligibility and how to claim.

- No
- No

Other points – The impact pay system does not give enough information about the food they are eating and the price, sometimes no clear descriptions and no pricing

STUDENT VOICE COLLATED SCORES FOR Q 1 – 3

Do you feel that your child gets value for money from their school meals - Scale of 1 to 5 (Low to high) and then reasons for your answer?

- Average of 2.2 If the price was lower this value would be a lot higher. Student feel like the value for money is limited

How do you rate the variety of food available from the current menu - Scale of 1 to 5 (poor variety to exceptional variety) and then reasons for your answer?

- Average of 4.1 general feel is the variety is good

How do your young people feel about the catering provision at Bishop Rawstorne?

- Average of 3.5 with the lack in variety of cold provisions being a common query.

