



# Nourishing young minds



Family information pack  
for young minds @ Primary Schools

# Welcome to Mellors Catering Services!

We are delighted to be your chosen school meal provider. My name is Mark Timmerman and I am the Managing Director/Owner of Mellors Catering Services. I am a family man with strong family values and with the help of my Dad, set up Mellors Catering Services over 20 years ago. It gives me great pleasure to say

that over the last 20 years we have grown considerably and now serve in the region of 87,000 school dinners every day, focusing specifically in the North of England and Midlands.

For me, the only option for my daughter is a school meal. Our children now benefit from some of the healthiest school lunches in the world. Wholesome, fresh, locally sourced food underpins our food foundations. They are nutritionally balanced, tasty and include old favourites such as roast dinners, spaghetti bolognese and the occasional plate of fish and chips.

We have created our Nourishing Young Minds Family Information Pack to demonstrate why millions of parents have already made the switch to school dinners. After all, when children eat better, they do better and feel better! Put your trust in us and see them grow.

## **Mark Timmerman**

Managing Director and Parent

07947 730 620



## *Quick facts* about Mellors and our food

- ✓ Award winning Contract Caterer (Contract Caterer of the Year 2017–18)
- ✓ Mellors is a family business catering for over 240 schools in the North of England
- ✓ All meals are made from scratch, daily by our onsite catering teams.
- ✓ Fresh ingredients from local suppliers.
- ✓ All of our schools have bespoke menus to meet their individual needs.
- ✓ Special theme days each month where we dress up and have fun.
- ✓ Guaranteed hot meal every day for children with a registered food allergy or intolerance.
- ✓ Last year we served approximately 420,000 brussel sprouts on Christmas dinner day!

## The *Right Choice*

Children love eating together at lunch time. It has become an integral part of a schools culture and curriculum creating a new vibrancy in schools. We are finding that children are trying an array of new foods when they see what their friends are choosing from the school meal counter.

Our school cooks, lunchtime supervisors and assistants are all passionate about food and take the time to get to know each child, welcoming them with a warm smile when they visit our counters. They often chat with the children about what's on the menu and how food links into their learning in the classroom.

Gone are the days of lumpy custard and beige food. Studies have shown that 72% of children opting for a school lunch will select vegetables, verses only 6% who take a packed lunch. Our school counters are packed full of choice and we encourage all of our pupils to eat a rainbow of fruit and vegetables, helping to keep their minds and bodies healthy and focused.

**Danielle Watkins** – Head of Nutrition and Food Development





## More value

less hassle



### School Meal – The Facts

- A choice of main meal with two seasonal vegetables
- Sandwich or jacket potato option to support children with the simplest of tastes
- Unlimited seasonal fresh crisp salad with a minimum of five choices available daily
- Fresh home baked bread
- Home-made traditional desserts
- Seasonal fresh fruit pots with yoghurt
- Unlimited chilled still water
- Hassle free

(Check the back of this pack to see your schools bespoke menu)

### Packed Lunch – The Facts

- Can be time consuming
- Parents often struggle with variety and choice
- Can be stale by the time a child eats it
- Parents often feel bamboozled with mixed media messages on what should and what should not be included
- Pre-packaged kids favourites can be expensive



## Allergen awareness – School meals for all

Does your child have a **registered allergy** or **intolerance**?



Mellors Catering Services make a commitment to you, the parent, that we will provide a meal for any child with a registered allergy or intolerance for the lifetime of your child's education with us.

In the back of this pack, you will find a parent registration form that you can complete to register your child.

### A little bit of *magic* every month

At Mellors, not only do we want to provide your child with a **nutritious meal**, we want them to have *fun!* That's why we have an array of promotions to bring fun and learning to lunch time.



Whether it's **National Baking week** or **Best of British**, we

will run themes to bring something new to the table for your child to try. We also offer services that go beyond the dining room.

Mellors **Development Chefs** offer classes to teach children the basics of cooking. Danielle, Head of Nutrition and Food Development, delivers assemblies in schools on the importance of making healthy choices. She'll even get them on the **smoothie bike** to whizz up some drinks for the class.



## Savings - for your family

If you are currently paying for your child's school meals, you could make savings of around £404 per year if your child qualifies for free school meal.

Save time and money by claiming your free school meal allowance today. You can get free school meals if your child attends a local authority maintained school and you receive one of the following:

- ✓ Income Support
- ✓ Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- ✓ An income-related employment and support allowance
- ✓ Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- ✓ Child Tax Credit (provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have an annual income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) that does not exceed the current year's level
- ✓ The Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- ✓ Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after your employment finished, or after you start to work less than 16 hours per week.
- ✓ Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 (£616.67 per month).



“ Both our children have free school meals. I was nervous about signing up at first, thinking they may have to queue separately to some of their friends, however this was not the case.

All children are treated exactly the same and there is no segregation between paying pupils and free school meal pupils. It was really simple to sign up and now as a family we have an extra £800 per year which pays for our family camping trip in summer. Plus, the school receives money for every pupil that registers. My school said they gained an additional £900 per pupil!

My children get healthy, hassle free meals every day, plus we have extra money for family trips! It was a no brainer!

Paula Highgate - Parent ”



To sign up today, visit  
[www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals](http://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals)





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