

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

8 September 2011



PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL

Uptake of free school meals

The Education Catering Service provides school meals in: -

- * All but two of the infant, junior and primary schools (not Riverside and Whiteleigh Primary School)
- * Five of the City's seven special schools (not Mount Tamar and Woodlands)
- * Three academies (Stoke Damerel CC, Ridgeway School and Heles School)

The service is able to report that for the schools where the school lunch service is provided the number of free schools meals served have been increasing since the financial year ending 31 March 2009: -

01 April 2008 – 31 March 2009	01 April 2009 – 31 March 2010	01 April 2010 – 31 March 2011
518,209 FSM served	566,950 FSM served	611,224 FSM served

In the period April to July 2010 a total of 194,901 free school meals were served over 62 term days.

This equates to an average of 3,144 FSM per day being served.

In the same period April to July 2011 a total of 193,219 free school meals were served over 61 term days.

This equates to an average of 3,168 FSM per day being served (a slight increase).

Note: the number of term days is one day less due to the additional bank holiday for the royal wedding and in addition, there were a number of schools closed for one day during the recent strike action. This will have affected the total number of meals served in the period.

Locally we report percentage take-up of FSM in all schools where the Education Catering Service provides the school lunch and this is in line with national figures which hover around the 80% mark: -

Apr 2010	May	Jun	Jul	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 2011	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
80.8	79.5	76.7	78.4	73.0	77.9	80.4	80.6	76.7	80.4	77.5	81.0	81.5	78.9	80.0

Work is ongoing with the Financial Inclusion Team to maximise registration for eligibility and take-up of the entitlement to free school meals and also within the Health Inequalities Action Plan. Information in the form of a leaflet is also provided for the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to give to all new benefits claimants and explain the entitlement for families as appropriate.

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