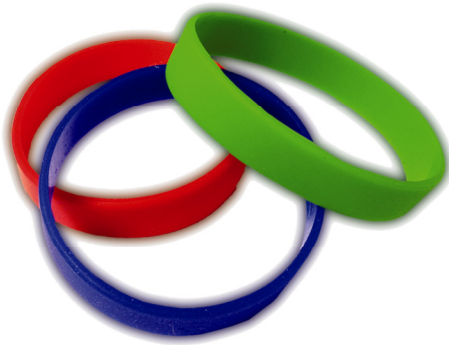




Marketing Services, Imagery & Creativity

Using the wristband system to improve the lunchtime service

Many schools are using coloured wristbands at lunchtime to help the lunchtime service to run efficiently and effectively. Pupils choose their lunch at morning break and are given a band to represent their choice. As they approach the counter for their meal staff can see what option they have chosen.



Top tip: This is an excellent system for the UIFSM as teachers can help younger customers make the right choice in a calm environment. This customer segment is going to be the most time consuming group to get through the lunchtime service. You could even limit the wristband solely to these customers.

The bands ensure pupils always get their first choice, parents get peace of mind their money is being well spent and caterers can manage portion control and waste to improve the business side of things.

Top tip: You can allow pupils to choose main only and pick their veg, salad and dessert when they get to the counter still gives a choice at lunchtime.

Simply colour code your menu posters, on the website and on any communications sent home. That way parents can discuss the choices with their children out of school hours.

Food for Life menu					
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	NEXT FREE FRIDAY	
Week 1					
Red	Blue	Green	Red	Blue	Green
Week 2					
Red	Blue	Green	Red	Blue	Green
Week 3					
Red	Blue	Green	Red	Blue	Green

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The menu choices will then be passed to the catering team in plenty of time to prepare for service. This allows the catering manager to plan the work load, complete orders and do the day job.

Top tip: You could prepare a few extra portions in case any pupil gets distressed at the counter once they have seen their option.

Case Study

School in Knowsley

The catering supervisor says:

"We introduced this system a number of years ago and it has been great for everyone involved. Parents know that their child will get the meal they want. And we can make sure everything is prepared in plenty of time and looks and tastes the best it possibly can. People eat with their eyes so although they have chosen it earlier in the day, the better it looks the happier the child is with their choice. Lunchtimes have been much smoother since we have introduced this system.

The school also benefits because happy fed children will be able to concentrate better in afternoon lessons, therefore helping their achievement."

Top tip: The bands can be washed in the steriliser or through the dishwasher and if you order them in bulk you can save money as well.

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