



Background

Hargrave Park School serves a diverse community within an area of high deprivation in Islington.

78% of our children are entitled to a free school meal.

For some of our children their school lunch is their main meal of the day. A number of children who present poor progress rates are also those with attendance and punctuality issues. Some of these children also come to school without having had any breakfast. This lack of 'school readiness' is one of our biggest barriers.

Although the majority of children at our school have always taken up a free hot lunch (approximately 1 or 2 children per class bring a packed lunch), the quality of provision wasn't good enough. This impacted on the amount they were actually eating as well as the variety and suitability of their choice. This in turn impacted on their focus and behaviour in afternoon lessons and subsequently their progress measures.

Children did not appear to enjoy their lunch. Their choice often did not include many vegetables, fruit or salad. There was a vicious circle of children not eating salad or fruit, so the presentation of what was put out was not to standard; there was a culture of 'the children won't eat it so we won't put it out'.

In addition the environment was poor. The school had a very large, ageing kitchen and poorly configured store area, but no designated dining area. The server counter, tables and chairs had to be put out daily in the assembly hall. The counter was not height appropriate, so the younger children could not see what the offer was.

Improvement work

A full review of the catering contract was undertaken. Notice was given and a range of providers visited to understand more fully the vision for the improved lunch.

Significant capital works reconfigured the kitchen and storage area, enabling the creation of a designated dining area. This was funded by the school with the support of match funding from the local authority and a private donor.

The school council were involved in discussions, shown a range of images to consider and consulted with regard to the menu and progress of works.

The counter area is now attractively presented and lit. Food is not served from catering sized trays, but in family sized dishes. This enables meals to be presented 'together' ie the main course and the vegetables side by side; jacket potatoes next to beans. The salad bar and fruit platters are attractively presented.

Pupils are now vertically grouped in 'Houses', with siblings in the same house, enabling them to eat together and support the younger children. This has proved to be popular with families and has supported improvements in behaviour and the overall pastoral environment across lunch.

We launched an indoor lunchroom with a timetable of activities across the week eg board games, IT, art etc.

We launched a free snack for morning break. Classes take a flexi break ie when the teacher feels is the best time, rather than everyone in the playground at the same time. Each class collects a hamper for their break time. There is a varied choice across the week which may include croissants, cheese and crackers, digestive biscuits, fruit etc., this is funded by Pupil Premium.

We launched a Universal FREE breakfast club in Summer 2013, which again is funded by Pupil Premium. The old style Breakfast Club cost £2 and although free places were offered discreetly to targeted students, the daily average was 6 to 8 children. Our new Breakfast Club now averages 35 to 40 students every day. Many of these children are those with attendance, punctuality and 'school readiness' barriers.

Impact

Children are eating more, both in terms of amount and variety. They are eating more vegetables, salad and fruit.

Behaviour across break times and lunch are much improved.

The school demonstrates progress measures which are in line and in some areas higher than national levels.

Although the school attendance figures are still a key priority and work is on-going, individual case studies demonstrate improvement

Case studies

Children A&B - Year 6 and 2

Siblings in key stage 1 and 2. Both have significantly improved punctuality when comparing Autumn terms 2012 and 2013. One dropped from 16 lates to 12 lates, the other from 22 lates to 12 lates. In both cases the number of purple cards received (behaviour sanctions) halved (10 to 5 and 5 to 2).

Child C - Year 6

The number of late sessions went from 23 in Autumn 2012 to 12 in Autumn 2013. Absences dropped from 12 sessions to 2 sessions. Purple cards received dropped from 5 to 2.

Child D – Year 6

The number of late sessions went from 17 in Autumn 2012 to 3 in Autumn 2013. Absences dropped from 12 sessions to 2 sessions. Purple cards received dropped from 7 to one. This

child is observably more settled in class throughout the day and has significantly improved peer friendships.

Child E – Year 4

Since attending Breakfast Club, this child's punctuality has improved from 16 lates in Spring 2013 to 3 lates in Autumn 2013. Mother reports that the commute to school was difficult due to a medical condition however, her journey to school is significantly easier when travelling earlier as there are fewer people on buses.

Child F – Year 4

Hard to reach family - poor attendance and punctuality since starting in primary education. Breakfast Club actively encouraged; punctuality and attendance have significantly improved from 6 late sessions and 38 absences to 2 late sessions and 2 absent sessions.

Child G – Year 2

Used to arrive at school late and anxious, this impacted on learning and peer relationships. With the free Breakfast Club, this child's punctuality improved from 14 late sessions in Autumn 2012 to 2 late sessions in Autumn 2013. This child presents as much happier and content and as a result is making good academic progress.

Next

Now the school kitchen has been reconfigured and we benefit from a designated lunchroom we can further develop our Extended Day provision. Instead of sandwiches at After School Club we will shortly be offering beans on toast

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Hargrave Park School

www.hargravepark.islington.sch.uk