

Family Service at Harehills transforms the lunch time experience

Our family service style lunch times mean that children can now take time over their meals. Food is presented in tureens on each table and served to the younger children by an older child, who has been selected due to their maturity and friendly manner. This style of service follows the traditional eating which takes place at many of our children's home.

Due to the high meal numbers within this school and to ensure this system works well, lunchtime has been split into three separate service times. This allows children the time to eat and enjoy their meal in a calm, relaxed environment where behaviour is much better than in a normal cafeteria style service. Extending the lunchtime period has had an impact on the school day, however we feel the benefits out way this. Additional staffing is required to facilitate this style of service.

3 Sittings for Meals – since implementing all of the changes and improvements at Harehill Primary school we have moved to three sittings to accommodate the number of children now taking a school meal, we have grown from 220 children taking a school meal to 300, an increase of 27%.

"We believe that school meals are an important part of our learning curriculum. Through family service our children learn to be a family where older children take care of the younger children on their table daily. Serving food and supporting each other."

Margaret Broughton, head teacher of Harehills primary school