



Healthy Norfolk Schools
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Dear Headteacher

Re-Standards Fund Grant 5b - Transforming School Meals

As you are aware, in your December Standards Fund Statement you received an allocation of money entitled School Meals Grant.

This letter (and accompanying pack which you will receive in your school's post next week) is to explain the rationale for this funding and to give guidance and practical ideas as to how you could use the money.

School Meals Review Panel (SMRP) - This panel was set up by the government in 2005 to develop new mandatory nutritional standards which would cover all food provided in schools. Their report was published in draft form in September 2005 and the consultative period closed on December 31st 2005. Although we had anticipated their final report earlier we do not now expect the final report and standards until late Spring 2006, (www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/healthyliving) and then for the standards to be introduced from September 2006.

School Food Trust - The School Food Trust has been set up, nationally, to oversee this work and to give practical support and guidance to schools. On their website www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk you can read the original report, 'Turning the Tables'.

Since this original report the School Food Trust has provided advice for government ministers on new food standards covering all food provided in schools, other than school lunches. You can read this report 'Transforming School Food' on their website and see the recommendations in terms of the kind of foods which will be discouraged, and those that will be encouraged.

Although we are unsure of the finer detail, we do know that the final agreed reports will cover two main areas:

1. Mandatory food and nutrient standards that will apply to all food provided in schools. This will include vending machines, breakfast clubs, tuck shops as well as school lunches. These standards will cover the procurement and sourcing of food, with the emphasis being on the use of fresh, seasonal and local food where possible.
2. Work in, and by, schools to support and promote healthier eating.

As soon as we have had the final report and its detailed standards we will put them onto the ESINET site and ensure that you are notified by E-courier.

Funding - The government has allocated three years of transitional funding to support the changes expected from the SMRP report.

There are two streams to this funding:

1. **Standards Fund Grant 5a**, which has gone directly to Children's Services to lead the development and implementation of a local strategy to meet these standards in a sustainable manner.
2. **Standards Fund Grant 5b**, which has gone directly to schools to support the 'whole school approach' to promoting healthier eating.

What Will The Money Be Spent On? - Complying with these standards has an inevitable cost implication for school meals caterers, not only with different food items and different sourcing requirements, but also to provide further training for school cooks and to up-grade equipment if necessary. Because of this it has been decided that some of the centrally held grant 5a, and a proportion of the schools grant 5b, **for those primary schools who are part of the group contract**, will go to Norfolk County Services (NCS), the major meals provider in primary schools. Secondary schools who are with NCS will work out individual arrangements.

NCS will be working closely with the Norfolk School Meals Project Team, on behalf of Children's Services, who will ensure that they are delivering the high quality nutritious lunches that we expect for all schools.

Audit - In order to monitor our progress as a county the project team will be required to report back to the DFES on what is happening in our schools. To enable us to do this accurately we will be, shortly, sending you a simple audit form and ask you to return it to us. This should not be too onerous for you as you will already be collecting this information to inform your planning.

Standards Fund Grant 5b - What Should Schools Do Next? - The intention behind Grant 5b is to help schools develop the whole school approach to the promotion of healthy eating. We know that being well nourished and well hydrated helps children and young people to achieve more, so this money can be used to enhance any healthy eating work that is already in place or to support new developments.

This work will also support schools in meeting Every Child Matters outcomes and help you achieve the Healthy Eating criteria in the National Healthy School Status.

In the pack you will find a sheet outlining the kind of areas you might work on and a few examples of how the money might be used. We have also included some information sheets to save you time.

If you need further information or more details, please contact me.

Yours sincerely

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