Integrating your catering team into the school community



Why care for your catering team?

Your catering team is central to the food environment at your school. In order for the team to put care into the food it serves the children and young people, the team members need to feel cared for and appreciated too!
It's therefore important to nurture a healthy relationship between staff, children and young people, and the catering team at your school, and to ensure the team is a valued part of your school community.

Ways to show appreciation for your catering team

Introduce members of the team by name to all the classes at the beginning of the year. Get students to write letters of appreciation to the catering team at the end of each term. Give them a round of applause at an end-of-year assembly.

Building a positive relationship between students and the team

Have a dedicated student food group or student council that meets termly with the catering team to give feedback about the food and build a friendly relationship with them.

Parents and the catering team

Invite the catering team to parents' evening so they can answer any questions parents may have about school food. There can be tasters of the school food available to reassure parents about the school food too.

Integrating the catering team into the school staff body

Invite them to whole-school staff meetings, invite them to use the same entrance as other staff, ensure they are known by name by the staff team, support their training and development.

It's up to you!

These are only a few suggestions and tips for how schools can integrate their catering teams into the school community. The context will be different in each school, but it's all about making a conscious effort (however you see best) to show your catering team that they are valued!

SCHOOL FOOD MATTERS