

School Food Task Group
Thursday 29th January 2009

**GENERAL IMPACT OF MAKING LEARNING TO COOK AND
UNDERSTAND THE PRINCIPLES OF DIET AND NUTRITION AN
ENTITLEMENT FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS**

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide information intended to assist the task group in considering this aspect of its terms of reference.

Background

2. Members received the following clarification on the government's requirements relating to the teaching of cooking, diet and nutrition for secondary schools at the December meeting:
 - (a) food technology will become a compulsory key stage 3 curriculum entitlement for every 11-14 year old from September 2011 - this move comes as part of the joint obesity strategy which Alan Johnson and Ed Balls launched on the 23rd Jan 2008
 - (b) the curriculum will be delivered through food technology lessons, involving practical cooking lessons and classes on diet, nutrition, hygiene and healthy food shopping
 - (c) nationally, around 800 new food technology teachers will be trained over the next three years, and another 150 teachers will enter the profession through employment based routes. There will be a programme to train Higher Level Teaching Assistants who will specialise in cooking
 - (d) a non statutory cooking entitlement – “License to Cook” – for 11 to 16 year olds starts in September 2008. The programme will be offered to all secondary schools with additional support and training by March 2009 so that all pupils are entitled to learn cooking, whether or not their school currently offers food technology. This means that everyone gets the opportunities, whether in cooking clubs, activity weeks or normal lessons, until food technology becomes compulsory as part of the curriculum in 2011. The programme can be introduced on a phased timetable basis
 - (e) for some schools without practical food facilities, there will have to be alternative arrangements made on a local basis, i.e .working with a local college, another school, summer school, activity week or Lets Get Cooking Club (programme for primary schools)

- (f) “Licence to Cook” is designed to be fully integrated with the new key stage 3 programme of study for design and technology: food. It is a minimum entitlement for all students in secondary schools, and it is intended that most schools will deliver “Licence to Cook” through their existing modified key stage 3 schemes of work
- (g) the resources and suggested practical activities in the “Licence to Cook” programme have been trialled in lead practitioner schools (Pewsey Vale School in Wiltshire being one of these schools)
- (h) the emphasis is on practical cooking skills, but there is a online training tool also. The learning areas include basic cooking skills, diet and nutrition, wise food shopping and hygiene and safety
- (i) the “License to Cook” programme is funded by the DCSF, but individual schools need to make decisions about how ingredients will be sourced for students
- (j) for some schools, the increase in practical lessons may require increased technician support. Food teachers will also need to investigate how the programme is to be integrated into the curriculum, how the funding will be managed and implications for staffing.

Further Information

3. The Adviser for Design & Technology from the Department for Children & Education (Vince Marriott) will provide further information on this aspect of the task group’s terms of reference, and attend the meeting on the 29th January.
4. The Lead Practitioner for the Licence to Cook Programme for the South West (who is also the Food Technology (FT) Teacher at Pewsey Vale School) (Bridget Sparks) will also attend the meeting and assist members in their questions on this subject. The task group is booked to carry out a visit to Pewsey Vale School in February to see Bridget lead an FT class.
5. The School Food Strategy Co-ordinator (Sarah King) will deliver a presentation at the meeting on Food Learning Partnerships in Wiltshire.

Conclusion

6. The task group is asked to discuss the additional information provided on this subject and to use this to assist it in writing its final report.

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