

Diweddariad Cyflwyno UPFSM 2024 UPFSM Roll out update 2024



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UPFSM Roll Out in Carmarthenshire update March 2024

The announcement regarding extending Free School Meals entitlement for all primary school children required a significant amount of planning, financing and investment to build capacity and prepare for the implementation of the commitment.

Carmarthenshire currently has 97 settings providing full time primary school provision. This includes 1 nursery school, 94 primary schools, 1 special school and 1 primary PRU. School meal provision for the Authority's 97 settings is provided via 3 central production kitchens, 85 production kitchens attached to settings as well as deliveries between production kitchens and 15 dining centres.

Progress To Date

Year Group	WG Target	LA Provision
N2		UPFSM offered since September 2022.
Reception	To be offered UPFSM from September 2022.	UPFSM offered since September 2022.
Year 1	To be offered UPFSM by April 2023.	UPFSM offered since January 2023.
Year 2	To be offered UPFSM by April 2023.	UPFSM offered from April 2023.
Years 3 & 4	To be offered UPFSM by September 2023.	UPFSM offered from September 2023.
Years 5 & 6	To be offered UPFSM by April 2024.	UPFSM offered to Y5 from February 2024 and Y6 April 2024

Special Diets

We are no longer requesting that parents apply for a UPFSM. We are, however, asking the parents of pupils with special dietary requirements to make the Headteacher aware of their needs. A robust system is now in place to identify those with special dietary needs and cater for them safely. Work is underway to collate all the information in relation to special dietary requirements centrally.

Capacity & Infrastructure works.

Funding Received

Preparation Grant -	£97,605.63
Capital Grant 1 st payment –	£1,570,320.00
Capital Grant 2 nd payment -	£2,198,448.00
TOTAL	£3,866,373.63

A vast amount of work to increase capacity and improve the infrastructure has already been completed in our school kitchens and is still on-going. Final works were completed during the Easter break 2024, ensuring all kitchens have capacity to cater for a theoretical 100% uptake of UPFSM across all age groups.

During the initial phases work was prioritised to take advantage of the Summer breaks, allowing for forward planning and mitigation of delays caused by equipment lead in times. Through 2023 and into 2024 these lead times have steadily decreased as market pressures have eased.

Unfortunately, additional equipment required by the implementation of UPFSM will result in additional energy consumption. However, where possible, equipment installed for the implementation of UPFSM is as energy efficient as possible e.g. electric rather than gas.

Contingency

There has also been a huge amount of work to 'future proof' the service by upgrading our central kitchens and the construction of a new kitchen facility at the old Ysgol Gorslas school site. This allows the catering service the flexibility to conduct a strategic review of the current service and determine where resources should be allocated once the final roll out phase is complete in April 2024. The Ysgol Gorslas Primary school is designed to support a delivery service to schools with the ability to produce over 400 meals per day.

Staffing

There are ongoing staffing pressures within the service which have further been exacerbated by the roll out of UPFSM. Rural areas are particularly affected. The demographic and skill set of the current workforce presents the greatest ongoing risk to the service. The required pace of change has contributed to an increased levels of sickness and absenteeism which in turn places pressure on the area managers within the department.

Uptake monitoring is conducted on a quarterly basis to ensure the labour needs of each school are identified and actioned through either amending the contracted hours of current staff or advertising positions.

In February 2024 the Catering service went live on the new Local Authority Recruitment System Oleeo. This has significantly improved the speed and transparency in recruitment.

To support the stability of the UPFSM roll out a degree of menu engineering is ongoing to maximise the equipment which has been installed in schools whilst minimising pressure on catering teams. The three-week rolling menu continues to provide hot meals in line with WLGA guidelines on healthy food in schools and continues to hold the highest compliance rating of 'Gold'.