

Structure of the Limerick School Meals Project

In 2005, the Limerick Food Partnership was set up and the school meals project came in under its umbrella. The Limerick Food Partnership has city-wide stakeholders: DSFA, HSE, Limerick City Council, Limerick Institute of Technology, PAUL Partnership and local community groups.

A food project coordinator was appointed to take responsibility for food related activities, e.g. the food bank and school meals. The coordinator hosts biannual meetings with the school meals suppliers and the schools that receive the meals and can be contacted at other times if the schools or suppliers have any problems. The school meals project is now even better than before due to the sharing of experiences and ideas.

How the Limerick School Meals Project Works

Each school uses a community project to supply meals to the school. The school claims the funding from the DSFA at a rate of €1.40 per child per day for lunch and 60c per child per day for a snack. The community project invoices the school for the total amount of lunches delivered at the end of the school year. The school then pays the community supplier.

The community projects are run as small businesses. In this way, all the non-food costs fall to the supplier. Therefore, the supplier is constantly trying to find more reasonably priced products, as well as different products, to keep the children's boredom at bay.

The food project coordinator has also set up a small business producing a fruit cup for sale to the community suppliers. This consists of a reusable sealed plastic bowl that is filled with fruit pieces. It is used by the community suppliers as a snack item in the school meals system and was produced in response to the difficulty of sourcing a reasonably priced fresh fruit snack pack.

Want More Information?

Contact: Liz Slattery, Food Project Coordinator, Limerick Food Partnership.
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The community suppliers involved in the Limerick School Meals Project are:

Brenda Gardiner, St Munchin's Community Centre.
Tel: +353 (0)61 458651

Beatrice Cronin, Southhill House.
Tel: +353 (0)61 415340

Teresa Sheehy, Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre.
Tel: +353 (0)61 228596

Ann Rainbow, St Mary's Parish.
Tel: +353 (0)61 411656

Trish Foley or Francis O'Brien, Limerick Youth Services.
Tel: +353 (0)61 412444

Two schools make their own school lunches:

Southhill Junior School. Contact Marion Tobin.
Tel: +353 (0)61 419879

St Michael's School. Contact Susan Frawley.
Tel: +353 (0)61 317672