

# Pupil voice makes change at Pineham Barns School

At school, lunch time can easily be overlooked compared to a full day of lessons, but the importance of a positive dining experience can't be dismissed. An enjoyable and calm lunchtime means children can fuel up on nutritious food and practice eating socially, which has positive impact on post-lunch behaviour and learning.

A key part of the Food for Life Schools Award is championing pupil voice. This is what Pineham Barns School did as part of achieving their Food for Life Bronze Award, the first Food for Life Award in the Public Health funded West Northamptonshire programme.

Food for Life lead and class teacher, Rhianna Mills, tasked the pupil team of Wellbeing Champions with improving lunchtime. These class representatives are well known, so pupils were happy to share their thoughts about school food with them. Their feedback shone a light on a previously unnoticed experiences, showing how important it is to ask pupils about their opinions.

## FEEDBACK

the queues for dinner are too long




- ## CHANGE
- Entry times have been adjusted, resulting in shorter queues and improved behaviour and noise.
  - Children who are having the same school dinner queue together, speeding up serving time. They can still join their friends to sit together at the table.

## FEEDBACK

those with a later lunch slot miss out on their favourite salad bar items


## CHANGE

The salad bar is now topped up regularly to ensure all the children can enjoy it and reach their five-a-day.



"It's been extremely insightful to listen and understand lunch time experiences directly from the children and equally, the children have thoroughly enjoyed taking responsibility for being that voice and making change. We are all looking forward to continuing our journey with the award and making more positive changes!"

**Rhianna Mills, Food for Life Lead, Pineham Barns**



Before engaging with Food for Life, the school had ad-hoc discussions with the children about lunchtimes, but this is now a consistent process and one they will develop further.

Next, the school will engage their caterer with the Wellbeing Warriors and continue to make improvements to the dining experience.

