

# Food For Thought Ltd.

July 2015

Durham Town Hall



**FOOD *for thought***

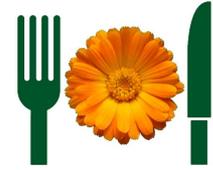
a not-for-profit school meals company  
owned by its schools

# Food For Thought



- Established in 2003 by 6 local schools in Belle Vale and Netherley working with their Local Sure Start Programme, Liverpool Vision and the Local Authority amongst many others in order to:
- Improve the quality, nutritional value and quantity of school meals for all pupils
- Improve the health of our children – to pro-actively encourage healthy choices at mealtimes
- To provide all pupils with enough to eat at mealtimes
- To remove any concept of portion control from the serve
- Work in collaboration with parents and carers to raise the profile of a healthy diet
- Create a pleasant lunchtime experience for children and staff
- To allow pupils to make informed and varied choices as to what they would like for dinner
- To create more choice at mealtimes from homemade soup to pupils mixing and matching the food that they want to eat.

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Our aims and objectives in 2003 were declared before Jamie Oliver's Campaign in 2005

- To provide a 'not for profit' sustainable schools' catering service owned and controlled by its partner schools.
- To offer fresh, nutritious and locally sourced food
- To increase an awareness of how a healthy diet affects behaviour, performance and educational achievement in school
- To increase awareness of where 'food comes from'
- To develop school-based and other community-based growing projects
- To work with the local community and similar 'not for profit' social enterprises who share the same goals and objectives
- To provide cookery lessons for Pupils and Parents free of charge with a cost just for food items used on the day of training.
- To examine the potential of 'spin-off' businesses – e.g. jam production/chutney etc.

# Food For Thought



FFT Ltd. was one of the first organisations, nationally, to make use of the 2002 Education Act which allowed for the creation of ‘school companies’ to provide ‘in-house’ services to schools. FFT is registered as a ‘not for profit’ social enterprise.

The Company is solely owned and controlled by all its partner schools. As a School Company FFT Ltd. is exempt from VAT

## Directors

- There are now 36 schools in the company, and each Headteacher has the opportunity to be a director of the company if they wish.
- Currently there are 12 Company Directors who are all headteachers and three recently retired headteachers who form the executive committee of FFT Ltd.
- This executive group meets regularly to discuss company issues and receive up to date information.
- Our Annual General Meeting takes place every January.

# Food For Thought

## and its financial structure

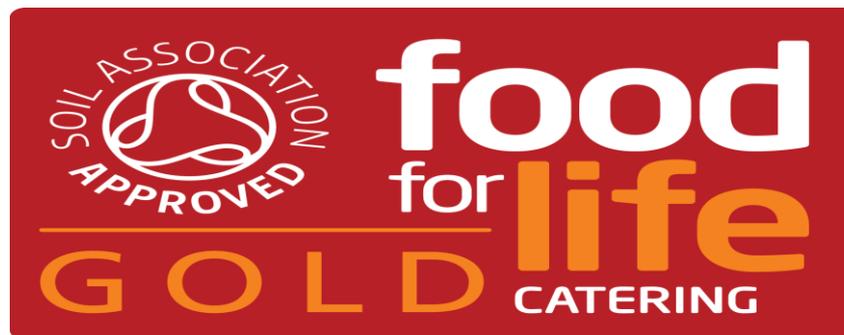


- FFT is owned by our partner schools and any surplus created is shared pro rata on an annual basis
- FFT employs nine mobile cooks/chefs who cover school catering staff absences – four are male chefs.
- All schools contribute towards the central costs of staff employed directly by FFT together with all costs associated with the business – Central Costs are allocated on a basis of proportionality – larger schools pay more than smaller schools
- Business Manager: Mike Carden BA MA Mphil
- Catering Manager/Head Chef: BA Hons.
- Daniel Reeves Training and Development Officer
- Administration Officer: Sara Johnstone
- 9 Mobile Chefs with the four central office staff also working as Mobile Chefs when necessary.
- Accountant: John Kirk
- Company Auditor: Harvey Guinan

# Food For Thought



- In 2009 FFT has achieved the Silver Award for the Soil Association Food For Life Accreditation and a year later we became the only school meals company in Liverpool to achieve the Soil Association's prestigious Gold Award. This year FFT Ltd. decided not to seek this award due to the annual additional cost of organic produce – however we still use organic pasta and rice and other sustainable foods that are practical to source and economically sustainable.



Food for Thought has only three main local suppliers for dry goods/meat/fruit and vegetables – from Liverpool, Ormskirk and Skelmersdale.

Total Produce (Dickinson's Fruit & Veg Liverpool) provide all our fresh fruit and vegetables direct from Liverpool Fruit Market – we also source local produce from Claremont Farm and Coultons Bread



COULTONS  
BREAD  
LIMITED

TotalProduce™

Let's Grow Together

Hannah  
FOOD SERVICE



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CLAREMONT  
FARM

COOK & JOHNSON  
BUTCHERS LTD

Food for Thought Ltd. is a founder member of the **Liverpool Food People** formed to establish a network of local growers and producers. Other members of the LFP include the NHS/PCT, Squash Nutrition, Rotters Composting and the YMCA amongst others. The LFP is the lead organisation for Liverpool's Soil Association Sustainable Cities Bid which could bring £1m of 'food investment' for local growers.

Food for Thought Ltd. are an active supporter of the Linda McCartney Charity 'Meat Free Monday' Campaign

FFT Support the Living Wage Campaign

Some of the schools involved in the FFT group include Rudston School, St. Paschal Baylon Catholic Primary School, Palmerston School, Hope School, Trinity School, Belle Vale Primary School, Our Lady of the Assumption, St. Ambrose, Booker Avenue Infant and Booker Avenue Junior Schools





**LOVE  
FOOD**  
hate waste



**FareShare**  
fighting hunger, tackling food waste  
Merseyside

**FOOD** alliance  
liver**POOL**



**Liverpool Food People**  
Together we nourish our city



Meat  
Free  
Monday  
[www.meatfreemondays.com](http://www.meatfreemondays.com)



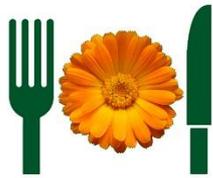
**LOVE  
FOOD**  
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We are a  
**Living Wage**  
Employer



unite  
the UNION



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Food for Thought serve almost 1 million meals a year to 35 primary, EBD and special schools.

Annual turnover is almost of £2m per annum

The Company's Operating Surplus last year was £92k

Central Costs to each school has dropped from .27p to .18p - a reduction of 33.3% on the previous year

Total Income is up by 54.7% and meals served are up by 86.8% including UFSM allocation.

Some schools still charge £1.60 per meal with others charging £1.80 – prior to the UFSM FFT Schools charge only £1.00 for nursery and reception meals.



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- Food for Thought are an accredited CIEH Level 2 Food Safety in Catering Trainer which is a service we provide free of charge to all our partner school catering staff.
- Food for Thought provide partner schools with curriculum-based KS1 and KS2 Cooking and Nutrition Classes free of charge.
- FFT also deliver cookery classes to adults and children free of charge.
- Currently working with the YMCA at Dutch Farm to develop School Growers Company.
- Currently working with Liverpool Food People and YMCA to re-introduce Waste Food Recycling Project previously based at Dutch Farm
- Examining summer-school meal provision – filling the holiday gap etc.