



SCOLAREST AWARDED EAST SUSSEX SCHOOL MEALS CONTRACTS

School children in East Sussex are set for healthier menus following the award of new catering contracts to school catering specialist Scolarest.

East Sussex County Council has chosen Scolarest to provide catering services at 163 primary and special schools and 14 secondary schools from August 2007. The primary school contract is worth £14 million in total turnover over four years while the secondary schools contract is worth £6 million in total turnover over the same period.

Scolarest will work closely with the County Council and schools to build on the ongoing drive to raise the standard of school food in East Sussex. Under the new contracts, menus will include fresh meat and more fresh fruit, vegetables and salad and milk. Menus will comply fully with the Government's current standards for lunch and the new standards for school food other than lunch which come into force from September 2007. The new primary school menus will also meet the more stringent nutrient-based standards which apply from 2008.

Cllr Rupert Simmons, Lead Cabinet Member for Learning and School Effectiveness at East Sussex County Council, said: "Scolarest is an experienced provider of school meals in other parts of the country and is tasked, under the terms of the new contract, with delivering a quality meals service that reflects our locally specified requirements and is of a higher quality of nutritional and food based standards than currently set by central Government."

"Scolarest has a strong track record in delivering nutritionally balanced, innovative school menus and we are delighted to have been chosen by East Sussex County Council to ensure that local pupils have access to a great range of healthy meals," says Scolarest managing director Tony Sanders. "Our menus have a strong focus on home-cooked foods and will offer children in local schools more fresh fruit, vegetables and salads.

“Through our *Putting Fun Back into Food* campaign, Scolarest will also be organising events such as cooking competitions, food workshops and tasting sessions in local schools. These are designed to encourage children and young people to eat well by getting them excited about good food and learning hands-on cooking skills.”

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Editors' notes:

Scolarest is the specialist education operating company of Compass Group providing a range of catering services to 2,500 state schools, colleges and universities.

Compass Group PLC is the world's leading foodservice company providing food and support services to clients and customers in the workplace, at schools and colleges, hospitals, at leisure and in defence, offshore and remote locations.

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