



Dining Hall and Lunch-time Routines – FAQ

How do we know what is available at the Dining Hall, and how do we know what our children are eating?

The menu for the Dollar Academy Dining Hall is published on the 'Current Parents' tab of the school website here: <https://www.dollaracademy.org.uk/dining-hall/>. There is also a Price List for all the other food and drink items, that are available at McNabb 'n' Grab and our Pasta Bar. You can check what your son/daughter has been purchasing from the Dining Hall via the ParentPay website. When you have logged in to ParentPay, simply select 'view taken meals and menus'. In the Senior School we do not monitor what pupils are eating, but we do encourage pupils, through our PSE programme, to eat well and make healthy choices.

Is there plenty of variety being served in the Dining Hall, with Vegan, Vegetarian and other Dietary requirements/allergies being taken care of?

Yes. As well as a variety of three course options, which include a salad bar, as per the Dining Hall menu on the school website, pupils can choose a variety of confectionary, cakes, pastries, pizza twists, sandwiches, fruit, salad bowls and pasta options, which are all available to either eat in, or take-away. All dietary requirements are accommodated, with a good variety of Vegan, Vegetarian and Gluten Free options available. These special dietary options are detailed on the published menu, and also highlighted at the serveries. If any pupil has specific dietary needs they are encouraged to speak to Paul O'Donnell, our catering manager, who will always make sure that every child's catering needs are being taken care of.

My child takes a packed-lunch to school. Where can they eat this?

Pupils are welcome to eat their packed lunch in the Dining Hall, and there is plenty of space for this, most of the time. Pupils with packed lunches do not need to queue and can go straight in and sit where they please. There is no dedicated pack-ed lunch area, so pupils are welcome to sit with their friends eating a hot meal bought from the Dining hall. When the weather is good, pupils can also eat their packed lunch outside, on the grass or on any of the benches around campus. If the weather is particularly wet and miserable pupils can eat their lunch in their Form Tutor Room. At this current time, we are keen that pupils spend as much time outside as possible, and pupils are encouraged to bring suitable outdoor clothing to keep them warm and dry in the varied Scottish weather.

What are the queues like at the Dining Hall?

No pupil has to wait long. The queues can build-up, but pupils are served very quickly. No pupil ever needs to wait longer than 10 minutes to be served. Some pupils, if the queues are long, just arrive at the Dining Hall a little later, when they can be served almost immediately. Usually, a queue is formed outside the Dining Hall, and as space becomes available inside, pupils are let inside in small groups. The queues are managed by teachers. This allows for a more pleasant and spacious experience inside. In wet weather, we allow more pupils to queue inside, out of the elements.

What are the timings for pupil access to the Dining Hall?

Prep 1 -3 pupils eat packed lunches in their classrooms. Prep 4 and 5 can choose to go to the Dining Hall (or have a packed lunch) and move through the hot counter only at 12 noon. Junior 1 and 2 taking a school lunch follow at 12.10pm with Form 1 coming in at 12.20pm and subsequent year groups arriving at 12:25pm. Lunch service stays open until 1:15pm, but most pupils have been served by 12:55pm. The Dining Hall is also open at break. Cold lunches can be purchased at break-time and eaten later, if pupils wish. This is useful for pupils that attend lunchtime activities.

Is there enough food and variety at the end of the service?

Yes, the Dining Hall team monitor very carefully what is popular and what is less popular and order/make appropriate quantities accordingly. The Dining Hall staff try to balance excessive waste with making sure that there is still a wide variety of food available at the end of a service. There are also a range of items that are prepared and replenished, during the service. There will always be a good variety of food available at the end of a service.

Are pupils permitted 'downtown'?

Senior pupils in Forms IV, V and VI will be permitted downtown at both break and lunchtime. Respectful behaviour is expected at all times.

Are there any other on-site catering facilities?

The Dollar Academy Horsebox located between the Music Department and Playfair Building offers light snacks at break and at lunchtime.

Does the Dining Hall recycle, reuse, manage waste responsibly, and act in a sustainable way?

Yes. Dollar Academy has become the first school in the UK to receive the '[Food for Life Green Kitchen Standard Award](#)' in recognition of their extensive sustainability practices. We even have our own 'wormery' to facilitate efficient composting.

If you still have questions about the Dining Hall and how lunch-times operate at Dollar Academy please write to dollaracademy@dollaracademy.org.uk .