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Sodexo bolsters education portfolio with key win

Sodexo, a leading food and facilities management services company, has announced an initial four-year agreement with Richmond Council to provide hot meals in the borough's 39 primary and special schools.

In a deal worth a total of £4.7million over four years, Sodexo will begin providing services to Richmond's schools in September.

Sodexo has developed a new service offer for primary schools in Richmond. The unique 'Just Joules' concept is designed to make lunchtime fun and attractive to children, whilst educating them to choose a healthy balanced meal, meeting nutritional requirements.

The specially tailored offer for children will include the preparation of fresh salad crudités, fresh vegetables, fresh fruit wedges, and the baking of fresh bread each day, in each Richmond school kitchen.

Sodexo have more than 50 years' experience in the education market and already has a healthy portfolio of clients in this sector. As well as meeting the government 2007 food standards well in advance, Sodexo has already met the 2008 nutrient-based standards - 12 months ahead of deadline.

Jeremy Alderton, Sodexo's director of business development said: "We are delighted to be working with Richmond council and we have worked hard at producing menus which are pupil friendly whilst meeting the new nutritional requirements. There is a strong emphasis on nutrition and the lifestyle benefits of healthy eating and there will be regular communication with pupils and parents".

Cllr Malcolm Eady, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education, said: "We are delighted to enter this partnership with Sodexo to provide children in the borough's primary and special schools with the quality, balanced meals that they need to perform at their best throughout the day."

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