

Canford School

Sodexo has been the catering and support services partner to the Governors and management at Canford School, Wimborne, Dorset since 1989. In recent years, the Sodexo role has expanded significantly into co-ordinating income generation from many of the school's impressive facilities, including the theatre and sports hall.



Canford School opened in 1923 and has built an envied reputation for both its academic successes and sporting achievements. The original Canford Manor traces its origins to Saxon times, although only the church and John o'Gaunts kitchen survive. The main building, which is Grade 1 listed, dates from the early and mid 19th century. Set in a 300 acre estate, the main school campus now comprises seven boarding houses and three day houses for 605 co-educational pupils between the ages of 13 and 18.

Sodexo has 49 of its own staff on site, but also manages a further 54 who are employed direct by the school. Together, they provide a comprehensive catering service; full cleaning and housekeeping; a functions and events service; management of the Tuck Shop, Sixth Form Centre and Uniform and Bookshop; a laundry and linen service; and supplementary transport within the estate. On a sub-contract basis, Sodexo manages window cleaning, fire equipment, laundry equipment and catering equipment servicing.

On a typical school day, the Sodexo catering team prepares and serves breakfast and supper for 425 and lunch for 820. Often, there is a separate function that requires the highest standard of hospitality catering.

Sodexo has made a significant investment in refurbishing the Tuck Shop, which includes a recreation area complete with Sky TV. The Sodexo team is also responsible for the bar and other facilities at the Sixth Form Centre and manages the Uniform and Bookshop on a profit share basis on behalf of the school.



Sodexo services at Canford School

- Housekeeping
- Catering, including event catering
- Co-ordination of facility lettings
- Environmental health and safety
- Retail: uniform shop and Tuck Shop
- Supplementary transport



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The client-paid staff who are managed by Sodexo provide a full cleaning and housekeeping service across the estate, including a shared responsibility for the swimming pool.

The facilities at Canford are outstanding and constantly being expanded. The Layard Theatre typifies the scale of investment in the school: a 300-seat 'theatre in the round' that follows the style of The Globe in London. The Sports Centre incorporates a swimming pool, multigym, indoor cricket and bowls - complementing tennis, squash and real tennis courts, as well as a nine-hole golf course, playing fields and astroturf pitches.

Sodexo works closely with the school to maximise income from the many facilities when they would not otherwise be in use. All are available outside term-time for functions, such as wedding receptions, balls/dances, Easter and summer schools, conferencing and other corporate events. The Sodexo team on site co-ordinates all lettings and provides bespoke services including catering and housekeeping. Services are also provided for users when the Sports Centre is let: often to rugby, cricket, bowls and other sports groups, including AFC Bournemouth who use Canford as their training ground.

Safegard, a Sodexo company, works closely with

management at the school to implement the environmental health and safety policy across the estate. As the UK's leading consultancy in this field, Safegard consultants provide an integrated advisory service covering workplace health and safety, food safety, fire safety and environmental management. The service includes independent safety audits and inspections as well as staff training, a helpline and a constant review of the changing legislative and regulatory requirements.

There is a strong emphasis on training and career development for all the staff employed or managed by Sodexo at Canford School. Individual on-site training programmes, such as accreditation to the British Institute of Cleaning Science, are complemented by external courses for craft skills and management development.

The relationship between the school and Sodexo has evolved into a genuine partnership. Precise annual budgets are agreed with the Governors and the Sodexo management team has a strong record for delivering against financial targets as well as providing continuous improvements in both the quality and level of service. The Sodexo management and staff at Canford School are highly regarded and treated as an integral part of the School team.

