

"Mrs. Chips takes orders for the school dinners run"

In countries where children spend most of the day in school and also eat there, school nutrition has long been a focus. Concerned over the health effects food scientists, lawmakers, and school administrators have debated how healthy food served and offered for example in vending machines should be. Parents and children might think differently about this topic, as the following article from the *Telegraph* discusses. - www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1528992/Mrs-Chips-takes-orders-for-the-school-dinners-run.html (September 6, 2006).



Rawmarsh Comprehensive School

1 A group of mothers has started delivering fast food through a school's fence in protest at the campaign for healthier school meals.

The parents claim they are taking action because 5 pupils are turning up their noses at what they describe as "overpriced, low-fat rubbish".

Four of them are using a supermarket trolley to make daily runs with fish and chips, pies, burgers, sandwiches and fizzy drinks from local takeaways.

10 Staff at Rawmarsh Comprehensive School, near Rotherham, South Yorkshire, have called in environmental health and education officials. They are looking into whether the women are allowed to sell food without an operating licence and whether they are covered 15 by food hygiene regulations.

Sam Walker, 41, whose 11-year-old son John attends the school, has accused the celebrity chef Jamie Oliver of interfering with traditional menus.

20 She said: "I just don't like him and what he stands for. He is forcing our kids to become more picky about their food. Who does he think he is? He can feed whatever he wants to his kids but he should realise that other parents think differently."

25 Julie Critchlow, 43, started taking the food for her children Rachel, 15, and Steven, 11, and two friends before others asked to be included. There are now four mothers delivering between 50 and 60 meals a day, with orders taken during the mid-morning break.

Mrs Critchlow said: "The reason we have done this is because our kids are being served up disgusting, 30 overpriced rubbish by the school and are not allowed out at lunchtimes to buy something they can enjoy.

"Food is cheaper and better at the local takeaways. We don't make a penny on it. We just want to make 40 sure the kids are properly fed. They don't enjoy the school food and the end result is that they are starving."

Schools have been told to serve healthier menus including at least two servings of fruit and vegetables per 45 day, and no more than two portions of deep-fried food each week.

Mrs Critchlow said: "My kids eat a balanced diet at home. I prepare a meal every night and we eat meat, fish, jacket potatoes, vegetables and salad.

"I don't know what my kids weigh but it's not always 50 down to what they eat, it's as much to do with their genes."

John Lambert, head teacher of the 1,100-pupil school, said: "I'm stunned. What these two women are 55 doing is unbelievable. They are encouraging children



The shop menu

- Cheeseburger and chips (£1.15)
- Cone of chips (65p)
- Sausage, chips, peas and a can of Coke (£2)
- Burger with a can of Dr Pepper (£1.50)
- Kid's Special: sandwich with a choice of filling including tuna, corned beef, and ham, plus a carton of juice and a packet of crisps (£1)
- Chips and peas (£1.25)
- Potato fritter on a bread cake (40p)
- Sausage in batter (40p)
- Carton of juice (25p)

The school menu

- Filled jacket potato (65p plus 35p per filling)
- A piece of pizza (75p)
- Pizza meal deal (£1.75p)
- Pasta King pot with sauce, milkshake and piece of fruit (£1.70)
- Sandwich (75p)