



Ocado: Healthy Zones

Six-month progress report

The Healthy Zones (HZ) programme supports schools to adopt a whole school approach to food by developing a school food policy, aimed at making the healthy choice the easy choice for students during their time at school.

Training the local authority

In this pilot project we have been training a member of staff working for Wandsworth council as well as a member of staff working for Islington council to co-deliver the Healthy Zones project in three schools in their respective boroughs. Local authority project officers (LAPOs) have had a total of four days training so far (two in May, one in July and one in September) to equip them with the skills and knowledge to deliver the project. They have also been able to observe the Project Coordinator, Antonia, deliver the project in one school in their respective boroughs. The LAPOs themselves are delivering the work in one school while being shadowed by Antonia and in the final school independently with remote support.

Timeline

Summer term 2024	Autumn term 2024	Spring term 2025
Three local authority training days School recruitment Kick off meeting School audits	One local authority training day Action plans School engagement Learning & sharing session	School food policy launch School engagement Final learning & sharing session

Wandsworth

Wandsworth successfully recruited three primary schools to the project:

School name	% of students eligible for free school meals	No of students impacted
Alderbrook Primary School	34.2	227
Ronald Ross Primary School	35.9	246
St Boniface RC Primary School	16.9	311

All three schools have launched a new packed lunch policy this term and are working towards launching a whole school food policy next term as part of their action plans. So far, we have hosted 4 parent sessions across the schools, aimed at budget friendly packed lunches and encouraging children to try new foods.

We have also hosted student workshops for every class at Ronald Ross around sensory food exploration and healthy snack choices. We have met with the student councils at each school and helped the schools set up food ambassador schemes.



Left: Sensory food exploration in reception Right: Parent packed lunch coffee morning

Islington

Islington recruited two primary schools for the project

School name	% of students eligible for free school meals	No of students impacted
St Mary Magdalene Primary Academy	38%	211
Winton Primary School	58.3%	232

St Mary Magdalene has successfully launched a packed lunch policy this term and hosted a parent workshop for special educational needs families. We have delivered three staff workshops, an assembly and worked with their student council. Winton has hosted a parent lunch taster session with their caterer.

Staffing challenges in the local authority

In Wandsworth we started off with two LAPOs sharing the role. Unfortunately, it became clear during the initial phase of the project that the two LAPOs did not have enough experience to effectively deliver the project, and the decision was made to replace them with the Healthy Schools lead, who was already working with the schools to achieve a Healthy Schools award.

In Islington, we have been working with a member of staff on the public health team who was on a fixed term contract and has been offered a new job in another council in January so a new LAPO will step in who had been chosen as a backup and attended our initial training sessions. She also used to work for School Food Matters as a freelancer, so we expect the transition to be seamless. The new LAPO will be inducted this week.