

Education catering accreditation scheme (ECAS)



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Education catering accreditation scheme (ECAS)



What is it . . .

A scheme to award accreditation (Gold / Silver / Bronze service standard) to education catering service providers based upon:

- quality of service standards to clients and pupils
- proven high level of performance in key performance indicators
- high levels of customer satisfaction
- achievements in healthy eating, nutrition, environmental & food safety aspects of the service

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What will you get . . .

Gold / Silver / Bronze service standard

Framed certificate(s) for display in schools / offices

Use of applicable 'APSE award standard' kite mark on literature

APSE website listing

Industry press coverage

Local press coverage via press release

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Gold / Silver / Bronze / other non graded

Probably should take account of ...

Performance indicators / profile data which reflect quality of service standards to schools and pupils

Health & nutrition – contribution to child health

Probably should not take account of ...

Financial performance of trading account

Productivity indicators

Staff related indicators

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Performance indicators to be used

Need to agree which PI's or elements of profile data should be used

Need to consider 'regional' implications (e.g. UIFSM / Wales)

Need to consider methodology and extent of ECAS (ie % accredited at each level – G, S, B)

Customer satisfaction surveys

In 2013-14 only 2 authorities submitted CSS forms

- review of CSS survey form and reports (working group)
- option to use own CSS results

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Gold service standard might be based on

Top quartile for all selected key PIs

or top 5 – 10% of performers across selected key PIs :

Customer satisfaction (non weighted CSS results)

Key meal uptake PIs

QA processes

Food for life, food safety training, healthy eating awards

Provision of breakfast and after school services

Sustainability and/or environmental policy PIs

Should APSE 'best performer' authorities automatically be Gold?



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Gold / Silver / Bronze / other non graded

Silver service standard might be based on

Top quartile for at least half of selected key PIs and at least second quartile for remainder or next 5 – 10% of performers across selected key PIs :

Customer satisfaction (non weighted CSS results)

Key meal uptake PIs

QA processes

Food for life, food safety training, healthy eating awards

Provision of breakfast and after school services

Sustainability and/or environmental policy PIs



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Bronze service standard might be based on

At least second quartile for selected key PIs

or next 5 – 10% of performers across selected key PIs :

Customer satisfaction (non weighted CSS results)

Key meal uptake PIs

QA processes

Food for life, food safety training, healthy eating awards

Provision of breakfast and after school services

Sustainability and/or environmental policy PIs



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How it might work . . .

In Year 1 (13/14 or 14/15):

80 authorities submit (top 10% are accredited Gold standard, next 10% are accredited Silver and next 10% are Bronze)

24 authorities receive accreditation – these are valid for 3 years

In Year 2 :

Some Silver or Bronze achieve Gold standard and are re-accredited; some non-graded achieve Gold, Silver or Bronze and/or some new authorities achieve accreditation.

Any existing Gold accreditation which is re-assessed at a lower level is 'advised' by APSE but not down graded until after the 3 year period.

So numbers increase in each year but keeping the value of the accreditation

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