School Cook Book

Putting together a book of all your favourite recipes is a great way of raising money. It preserves many of your most liked foods that will be used long after you have left school, maybe whilst at university and perhaps even when baking for your own children when you grow up!

It creates a sense of unity and pride within the school, gives you a keepsake of your time there whilst also helping many limbless children in the developing world.

You can either print & bind your own recipe books or you can use one of the many online companies offering a cook book creating service. Some are aimed at a younger audience so make sure you go for the company that fits your needs.

Here are two such companies:

<https://www.school-products.co.uk/cookbooks>

<http://www.thecookbookinitiative.com/>

**Producing the cookbook**

To put together a charity cookbook it is usual to have one or two people in overall charge to co-ordinate things.

Other people are then invited to submit their own best loved family recipes. It’s usual to include the name of the person whose recipe it is, sometimes along with their personal story about the dish and why it is so great.

The co-ordinator is responsible for bringing the whole thing together. This will probably involve chasing people up for promised contributions and ensuring that all the recipes received are suitable and fit the brief.

The style for the book and the way it will be laid out should be carefully chosen. Recipes might be featured alphabetically or split into chapters based around particular ingredients.

Recipes should be re-written to fit a common design and layout. Do include a clear index and page guide for the cookbook. Decide on whether you will use imperial or metric (or both) measurements and stick to it.

As you re-write the recipes check that you think they will work OK. It is easy for people to miss an ingredient off a list that they then refer to later. Make sure nothing is missing and that all listed ingredients are actually being used.

You may also put some time into creating a nice cover. Is there anyone at your school who is particularly good in drawing? Or should several pupils contribute to the cover?

Set the price of the book depending upon how many recipes you have and knowing the actual costs of producing the book (cover, binding etc).

**Selling the cookbook**

The advantage of cookbook fundraising is that when it comes to selling the book you have an established army of sales agents - your contributors. Most should be able to sell copies to families and friends.

The books can also be sold at any other fundraising event your school puts on or takes part in.

If the cookbooks are of sufficient quality you may be able to persuade a local bookshop to take some on a sale or return basis.

Getting your recipe book reviewed by a local paper (who might like to print some of the recipes) or local radio station may also help sales.

Another idea to generate publicity and sales is to organize a competition whereby purchasers can vote for the best recipe in the book.

**Good luck!**