



Today Ana Juan, Alejandra Ferrer and Susana Labrador, the respective president, vice president and councillor of education for the Consell de Formentera, together with Margalida Ferrer, educational delegate for Eivissa and Formentera, paid a visit to the newly operational kitchen and canteen of the Sant Ferran de ses Roques primary school.

President Juan expressed her satisfaction at "launching a service that was at the heart of so many requests from the local educational community and one which will help islanders balance their professional and personal lives". She pointed up the Sant Ferran school's "tailor-made facilities" and said pooling the resources needed to underwrite the meal service had been "a collaborative effort".

For her part, Councillor Labrador said that when the previous concessionaire withdrew from the service, the joint decision by local government, the school and parents' association to take up the mantle meant "a great deal of work", and she applauded the Consell's partners in the endeavour. "We are the first island council to sign an agreement with the Balearic Government to run the meal service", she explained, adding that work was already under way so that in the coming months meals could also be offered in other public schools on the island.

Agreement

The Consell de Formentera struck a deal with the Balearic Ministry of Education and Vocational Training to take over management of the CEIP Sant Ferran school canteen service as a centralised kitchen from the 2022-2023 school year. The island's government runs the kitchen and cleans the spaces with its own staff.

Meal costs are set by the Sant Ferran school council. This year students who use the service every day will pay €6.50 and those who use it sporadically €7.15. The school parents' association will oversee payment collections.

Canteen monitors will be teachers from the school and will be paid by the Balearic Government per ministry guidelines approved by yearly resolution. There may also be volunteer monitors from

the parents' association.

Meal service for other public schools

Mestre Lluís Andreu and CEIP el Pilar de la Mola are taking administrative steps to apply for the canteen service through the Balearic Ministry of Education. Schools will have to provide a canteen space. Under the agreement, meals will be prepared at the central kitchen at the Sant Ferran school and delivered elsewhere.

Children at the Sant Ferran nursery (*escoleta*) will also have their meals in the new canteen. "Until now they received meals from the kitchen at Escoleta La Miranda", said Labrador, "but now that the dining hall is operative, they will eat there a different time than primary pupils".

Neus Costa, director of CEIP Sant Ferran de ses Roques; representatives of the parents' association; Esperanza Suñer, director of Escoleta Sant Ferran; Neus Marí, director of CEIP Pilar de la Mola, and Santiago Ramírez, director of CEIP Mestre Lluís Andreu, also attended the event.

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