

Policy Extract

[The School Food Plan](#)

This plan is about good food and happiness. It is about the pleasures of growing, cooking and eating proper food. It is also about improving the academic performance of our children and the health of our nation.

Actions

Actions for head teachers.

Head teachers are the only people who can truly lead the revolution in school food. We have provided a **checklist for head teachers** to help them start to turn round their food service – or nudge it from good to great.

Actions for government

1. Put cooking into the curriculum: make cooking and food an entitlement in key stages 1 to 3.
2. Introduce food-based standards for all schools.
3. Kick-start increased take-up of good school food.
4. Set-up financially self-sufficient breakfast clubs.
5. Set up flagship boroughs to demonstrate the impact of improving school food on a large scale
6. Investigate the case for extending free school meals entitlement.
7. Train head teachers: include food and nutrition in head teacher training.
8. Public Health England will promote policies which improve children's diets in schools.
9. Ofsted inspectors to consider behaviour and culture in the dining hall and the way a school promotes healthy lifestyles.
10. Measure success – set up and monitor five measures to test whether the School Food Plan is working.

Actions for us and others

11. Share 'What Works Well' on a new website, to enable schools to learn from each other.
12. Improve the image of school food.
13. Bring school cooks closer to the rest of the catering sector.
14. Improve the skills of the workforce.
15. Small school taskforce – caterers, kitchen designers and manufacturers to work together to provide good food for small school.
16. Ensure small schools are fairly funded.

Recommendation for government

17. The government should embark upon a phased rolled out of free school meals for all primary school children, beginning with the local authorities with the highest percentage of children already eligible for free school meals.