



The School Food Plan: milk - and the revised food-based standards

From 1 January 2015, schools across England are legally required to ensure milk is made available during the school day to all pupils who want it. This is because milk is an important part of children's diets. The actual requirement is as follows:

“Lower fat milk or lactose-reduced milk must be available for drinking at least once per day, during school hours.”

In practice, this means that schools can make milk available at either mid-morning or afternoon break or at lunchtime. This standard is not met by providing milk at breakfast clubs or after school clubs.

Frequently asked questions

Who is entitled to school milk at the moment? There is currently no statutory requirement for schools to make milk available for pupils, although many schools choose to do so.

What happens under the new school food standards? From 1 January 2015, schools must make milk available for every child who wants it in primary schools, secondary schools, special schools and pupil referral units. The milk can be made available at lunchtime or at another time during the school day.

Does the milk have to be free? As at present, all children aged between 5 and 18 who are eligible for free school meals (where the school claims a Pupil Premium) must be offered free milk. Schools may use the dedicated schools grant to fund the provision of milk for eligible pupils. From September 2014, when all infant pupils are entitled to a free school meal, milk must be offered free to infant pupils **where it forms part of the school lunch**. If milk is offered at any other time during the school day, it will only be free for those pupils with an underlying entitlement to free school meals.

When should we make milk available? Milk should be made available during core school hours. In practice this means that milk can be made available at mid-morning break, mid-afternoon break or lunchtime. It is the school's decision when to offer milk during the school day. By drinking milk at mid-morning or mid-afternoon break, children will benefit from the rehydration and energy boost halfway through the morning or afternoon. If you offer milk at lunchtime, it can be part of the school meal.

What type of milk can we offer? You may offer only lower-fat milk (not more than 1.8% fat content, such as semi-skimmed, skimmed or 1% fat milk). Lactose-reduced milk or plain soya milk can be offered for children who are lactose intolerant.

How much does the milk cost, and how much do we charge? Under the Department of Health Nursery Milk scheme all children under five years old attending a day care or early years setting are eligible to receive, free of charge, 189ml (one third of a pint) of milk each day they attend an approved day care or schools facilities for two hours or more.

For children aged five and over, you must make milk available free of charge if they are entitled to free school meals. Schools may use the Dedicated Schools Grant to fund the provision of milk for eligible pupils (i.e. those entitled to and registered for free school meals). It is for individual schools to decide how much funding to allocate for this. To help reduce the cost, schools can participate in the EU School Milk Subsidy Scheme.



Cool Milk's solutions

The Cool Milk Scheme ensures you comply with legislation and the core values of the School Food Plan as they provide:

- ❖ a complete, one-stop solution to under 5s free milk provision, over 5s subsidised milk provision and Pupil Premium scheme for children on free school meals
- ❖ a cashless scheme with minimal administration enabling you to focus your time on delivering universal infant free school meals
- ❖ free fridge, marketing materials, posters and stickers to promote the scheme to children attending your school, and to their families
- ❖ fully transparent audit trail for the Department of Health, Department for Education, Ofsted and school governors demonstrating compliance with the new legislation
- ❖ 16 years' experience operating this scheme across English schools with award-winning customer service, designed to significantly reduce your workload and promote health and wellbeing across the school.

Cool Milk's scheme is intended to benefit children at one of the most important times of the day, giving an important energy and hydration boost, filling the gap between breakfast and lunch. This is especially important for those who haven't had a nutritious breakfast.

Why should I register with Cool Milk? Cool Milk currently works with more than 9,300 English schools, providing a hassle-free solution to this element of the School Food Plan. They are experts in school milk administration and will ensure that you fully comply with legislation as well as offering a comprehensive and transparent audit trail. Cool Milk also partners with the Children's Food Trust, LACA and Change4life, ensuring we work with the experts in school food and catering.

Why mid-morning break versus lunch time? Dr Hilary Jones, Cool Milk's Medical Advisor sums it up with:

"For school children, milk is the nearest thing to complete nutrition in a carton or cup. It is a great energy boost; it rehydrates after break time and contains calcium and protein to help build strong, healthy teeth and bones. For free school meal children, these extra benefits are even more important. Providing school milk at mid-morning break is a once in a lifetime opportunity for growing bones which should not be missed".

How much does the Cool Milk scheme cost? Cool Milk will manage all of your administration, Government claims, cash collection and will help you market the scheme to your pupils' parents. The scheme offers each pupil 189ml of milk at a subsidised price of 22p per child (over five years of age) per day. Children under five years old have milk free of charge, as do all those eligible to free school meals (as outlined above).

Unsure? – see chart below

Cool Milk Solutions - <i>which milk scheme do you have in place?</i>	Under 5 Free Milk	Over 5 Parental Paid Cashless scheme	Free School Meal children milk, funded by school	Which Cool Milk solution do I need?
I do NOT have any Cool Milk schemes in place	<i>You need Free Under 5's</i>	<i>You need subsidised Over 5's</i>	<i>You need FSM milk</i>	<i>Quote Solution 1</i>
I have 'under 5' free milk ONLY	✓	<i>You need subsidised Over 5's</i>	<i>You need FSM milk</i>	<i>Quote Solution 2</i>
I have 'under 5s' and 'over 5s' in place	✓	✓	<i>You need FSM milk</i>	<i>Quote Solution 3</i>
How do I join these schemes?	Contact Cool Milk on 0800 056 2146 and quote <i>"Cool Milk Solution 1, 2 or 3"</i>			

If you have any questions, contact the one-stop solution experts, Cool Milk on 0844 5572 237.

