



Free School Meals for All

Partner toolkit: Council Motion

This Council notes:

- Research carried out by Child Poverty Action Group showing the current eligibility criteria for free school meals are entirely inadequate, meaning that on average [one in three children](#) living in poverty in England cannot access the provision.
- The [ever-growing body of evidence](#) demonstrating universally provided free school meals benefit children's health, attainment, behaviour, lifetime earnings, local economies, families' budgets, and staff working conditions.
- A [cost-benefit analysis of expanding free school meals](#), carried out by PwC, showing a significant return on investment: universal provision could generate £99.5bn for the economy over its first 20 years.
- Wales and London have rolled out universal free school meals, Scotland has done this for children up to age 10, leaving the rest of England behind.
- Labour Party Conference 2022 passed [an emergency motion](#) in support of universal free school meals.

This Council believes:

- That providing free school meals to all children would improve their health and educational outcomes and reduce inequalities.
- That, like in hospitals, prisons, military settings, and other public places where the state provides food, the state has a moral responsibility to feed those it requires to be in schools.
- That it is unjust to means test children for this one part of the school day.
- That providing universal free school meals is a right and economically virtuous investment in our future generations.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Secretary of State for Education and the Prime Minister calling on the government to invest in the next generation by providing fully government-funded, delicious, nutritious and sustainable school lunches for all school pupils of all ages in England.