



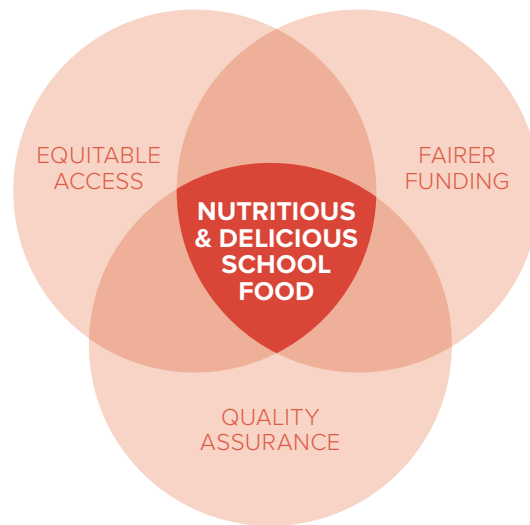
# School Food Review Manifesto

## Nutritious and delicious school food for every child to thrive

Every child, regardless of their background, should have the same opportunity to access and enjoy delicious, nutritious and sustainable school food so they are set up to concentrate and learn. A great school food culture means children leave school in better health, less at risk from diet-related illness, and able to play a full and productive role in our economy and wider society.

The next government must commit to a continual cycle of improvement to the three parts of the school food system so every single child has the vital nutrition they need to reach their potential.

**“Our vision is for every child to receive the nutrition they need to thrive. The next Government has the opportunity to create a school food system that maximises pupil and school outcomes, giving every child the opportunity to fulfil their potential.”**



### Dr Nick Capstick OBE

Co-Founder of the White Horse Federation and Chair of the School Food Review Working Group

**Equitable access to school meals:** *Every child should have access to hot, nutritious school meals.*

Commit to an ambitious long term plan for the provision of school meals to all children, with an immediate extension of entitlement to those most in need of the benefits that healthy school meals offer.

When all children are given quality school food, they thrive: making 4-8 weeks extra progress in maths and English.<sup>i</sup>

**Quality of food provision:** *Ensure all school food is nutritious and sustainable.* Update the School Food Standards to reflect the most recent dietary guidance and environmental considerations and roll out a nationwide monitoring system to support compliance.

School meals provide the nutrition children need and are healthier than packed lunches. Children who eat a school meal consume more fruit and vegetables.<sup>ii</sup>

**Fairer funding:** *Make it easy for school leaders, caterers and administrative staff to provide nutritious and sustainable food.* Provide appropriate, fair and transparent school food funding for schools and caterers so that they can plan and budget effectively. Ensure funding keeps pace with rising costs and introduce automatic registration of all children eligible for free school meals.

Cost-benefit analyses show that providing quality school food boosts economic productivity meaning the policy pays for itself many times over in terms of benefits to individuals and society.<sup>iii,iv</sup>

**Improving the school food system is an achievable task for the next government which would reap significant benefits to the next generation in terms of their readiness to learn and health and wellbeing.**

The School Food Review Working Group is a coalition of 30 organisations, committed to working together to improve the school food system.

- i The Food Foundation (2022). The superpowers of free school meals. [https://food-foundation.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-11/FSM%20Evidence%20Pack\\_0.pdf](https://food-foundation.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-11/FSM%20Evidence%20Pack_0.pdf)
- ii Vik, F.N., et al., 2019. Free school meals as an approach to reduce health inequalities among 10–12-year-old Norwegian children. *BMC Public Health*, 19, 951 & Sellen, P., et al., 2018. Evaluation of Universal Infant Free School Meals. Education Policy Institute: Cooper Gibson Research. <https://epi.org.uk/publications-andresearch/evaluation-universal-infant-free-school-meals>
- iii Impact on Urban Health. (2022) Investing in Children’s Future: A Cost Benefit Analysis of Free School Meal Provision Expansion. <https://urbanhealth.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/FSM-Full-Report.pdf>
- iv Franklin, J. et al. (2021). The economic cost-effectiveness of the Magic Breakfast model of school breakfast provision. <https://www.probonoeconomics.com/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=fb07e95d-601a-4a35-8e57-f4be01d0644d>



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**The School Food Review Working Group is a coalition of organisations spanning charities, educational organisations, caterers, unions and academics, committed to working together to improve children's health by reforming the school food system.**

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This manifesto is supported by the following:

**ASCL: Association of School and College Leaders**

**Bite Back 2030**

**Bremner & Co**

**Chefs in Schools**

**Child Poverty Action Group**

**Children's Food Campaign**

**Confederation of School Trusts**

**Eagle Solutions Services Ltd**

**Federation of Wholesale Distributors**

**Impact on Urban Health**

**Institute of School Business Leadership**

**Jamie Oliver Group**

**LACA – The school food people**

**Magic Breakfast**

**NAHT: The School Leaders' Union**

**National Education Union**

**National Governance Association**

**Newham Council**

**ProVeg UK**

**Royal Academy of Culinary Arts' Adopt a School Trust**

**School Food Matters**

**Soil Association: Food for Life**

**Sustain: the alliance for better food and farming**

**The Children's Society**

**The Food Foundation**

**Tower Hamlets Council**

**UNISON**

**ZG Nutrition**