



New School Food Standards

- Eating well in school plays a key role in children's health, wellbeing and ability to learn.
- In 2026, the Department for Education School Food Standards are being updated for the first time in over a decade.
- Since then, childhood obesity has risen, eating habits have changed, and children are eating more ultra-processed food and foods high in fat, salt and sugar, with tooth decay one of the main reasons children visit hospital.
- These new School Food Standards will set out clearer rules on the food provided in schools and they will be monitored from September 2027.

This is a once in a generation opportunity to have your say!

“ We have committed to overhaul School Food Standards to ensure that every child gets the good quality food they need that gives them the best start in life ”

Olivia Bailey, Minister for Education

A national consultation is now open, closing on Friday 12th June 2026. The Department for Education want to especially hear from those who know school food best - students, parents, schools, caterers, growers.

Essex County Council Public Health, with HCRG Healthy Schools and Zoe Griffiths Nutrition, will be holding free webinars for Essex schools to learn more about the new school food standards and this consultation process

Dates:

Thursday 30th April - 15:30 - 16:15

Wednesday 13th May - 15:30 - 16:15

Tuesday 9th June - 15:30 - 16:15

Sign-up here



Share your views

Read the new standards here



Complete the survey here

