

Why School Meals are Great



**FOOD
FESTIVAL**
By Aspens

Lunch time is an important part of a child's school day, giving pupils a break with friends and the chance to recharge their batteries. But why should you choose a school meal? Take a look at the ten great reasons we have come up with!

1. School meals are delicious, healthy, safe, varied and could be free!
2. Measures have been taken around staff training, food safety and enhanced cleaning to ensure that all of our dinners are safe.
3. It would save you hours making packed lunches for your child!
4. Children receiving Free School Meals have exactly the same choice as everyone else and no-one will know that your child's meal is free.
5. You can see the menus and choices online, and on the app, so you know exactly what they'll be eating.
6. The school catering team is fully trained and ready to cater for children with allergies or other special diets.
7. School meals help encourage good eating habits from an early age and provide the opportunity to further develop their social skills as they sit down with friends to enjoy their meals.
8. There are plenty of opportunities to try new foods and more fussy eaters are much more likely to try new things if their friends are eating the same meals as they are.
9. It's easy to apply and eligibility has currently been extended due to coronavirus – speak to your school office for details or check your eligibility here: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>
10. You'll be supporting the school too. Schools receive extra government grants for every child who is claiming Free School Meals. That can be used to pay for more books, computers, special events and much more.