

Agenda Item	5
Report No	RDB/06/25

# The Highland Council

**Committee:** Redesign Board

**Date:** 28 August 2025

**Report Title:** Food in Schools Project – Progress Update

**Report By:** Assistant Chief Executive – Corporate

## 1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 Following the meeting of the Redesign Board workshop on 20 March 2025 Officers implemented feedback received from Elected Members when designing the planned surveys. These surveys provide opportunities for change within the provision of food in schools in the Highland Council area.

1.2 This report provides an update on the emerging outcomes from the surveys.

## 2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- i. Consider the progress to date.
- ii. Agree that the draft action plan will be considered by the Redesign Board in November 2025.

## 3. Implications

3.1 **Resource:** There are no resource implications arising as a direct consequence of this report.

3.2 **Legal:** There are no legal implications arising as a direct consequence of this report.

3.3 **Risk:** There are no risks arising as a direct result of this report. Project/Programme risks are identified via the council risk management process and monitored through the Portfolio Boards and are reported by exception only.

3.4 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people):** There are no immediate health and safety implications arising from this report.

3.5 **Gaelic:** There are no implications arising as a direct result of this report.

#### 4. Impacts

- 4.1 In Highland, all policies, strategies or service changes are subject to an integrated screening for impact for Equalities, Poverty and Human Rights, Children's Rights and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Islands and Mainland Rural Communities, and Data Protection. Where identified as required, a full impact assessment will be undertaken.
- 4.2 Considering impacts is a core part of the decision-making process and needs to inform the decision-making process. When taking any decision, Members must give due regard to the findings of any assessment.
- 4.3 This is an update report and therefore an impact assessment is not required. When further action plans are developed these will be assessed for impacts accordingly.

#### 5. Food in Schools – Delivering Sustainability

- 5.1 The project has a RAG status of Green with activity on track.



- 5.2 The Redesign Board are reminded that the 4 key initial areas of work within this project as agreed at the Redesign Board held on the 2 October 2024 are:
- Take-up rates (FSM)
  - Income generation
  - Operating model
  - Cost of food
- 5.3 The most recent activity for the project related to the design and issue of stakeholder consultation surveys based on feedback from Members at the Redesign Board Meeting on 20 March 2025. Surveys were designed using a collaborative approach involving guidance from Members and colleagues from Catering Services. Different surveys were designed to meet the requirements of 8 different stakeholder groups as listed below.
- Surveys were issued in late May 2025 and the surveys closed on 4 July 2025. For ease of reference, survey forms are attached at Appendix 1.
- 5.4 In total 5,009 responses were received by 4 July 2025 from all secondary and special schools and over 95% of primary schools. Officers are extremely grateful to all those who took the time to participate in the survey. The depth and breadth of responses enables the Council to be assured of a highly representative sample of stakeholders. Initial high-level analysis of results has been undertaken, and this will inform the Redesign Board workshop following this meeting.

Survey responses by targeted group were as follows:

Catering Staff	140
Other school staff	414
Members	8
Primary school parents	1067
Secondary school parents	415

Joint parents/pupils	409
Primary school pupils	1713
Secondary school pupils	843

## 5.5 Emerging Themes by Stakeholder Group

	Choice	Quality	Communication	Dining Experience	Waste	Supervision	Value for money	Portion size	Timing
Catering Staff	✓		✓		✓	✓			
Other school staff	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Members	✓			✓					
Primary school parents	✓	✓					✓	✓	
Secondary school parents	✓		✓	✓			✓		
Joint parents/pupils	✓	✓		✓					
Primary school pupils	✓			✓				✓	
Secondary school pupils	✓	✓					✓		✓

5.6 It should be noted that the above table represents some of the general emergent themes.

5.7 Positively there was a very strong response in relation to the professionalism and friendliness of catering services staff across all surveyed groups.

## **6. Next Steps**

- 6.1 Today's Redesign Board Workshop on 28 August 2025 will help inform a draft action plan. Officers will also continue to analyse survey responses to further inform the draft action plan. Officers recommend that the draft action plan is considered by the Redesign Board in November 2025.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Corporate

Date: 28 August 2025

Authors: Sheila Armstrong, Chief Officer – Revenues & Commercialisation  
Steven Bone, Business Development Manager  
Lucy Lallah, Business Management Analyst

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Survey Forms

# Food in Schools – Catering Staff Survey 2024/25

This survey has 17 questions and will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. **Please complete and post your survey by Monday 16th June 2025.**

1. What school(s) do you work at?

2. How healthy do you feel the following are:

	Very Healthy	Fairly Healthy	Fairly Unhealthy	Very Unhealthy
School meals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children's overall diets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Do you feel school meals help pupils learn about the importance of nutrition?

YES: ☐

NO: ☐

DON'T KNOW: ☐

4. Which of the following factors encourages pupils to have a school meal?

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Value for money	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friendliness of staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Speed of service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Menu choice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality of food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Time available to eat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dining room experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Options at external premises	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regularity of menu change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Peer influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Do you feel there are other factors to encourage more pupils to take up school meals?

6. How many supervisors are usually present in the dining room at lunchtime?

7. Who usually supervises in the dining room at lunchtime?

☐ School Management

☐ Teachers

☐ Pupil Support Assistants

☐ Specific Dining Room Supervisor

☐ Other?

8. From your observation in your school, do you feel dining hall food waste is an issue?

YES: ☐

NO: ☐

DON'T KNOW: ☐

9. Do you feel changes can be made within your school to reduce food and kitchen waste?

YES: ☐

NO: ☐

DON'T KNOW: ☐

10. Please provide the reason for your answer to Q9:

11. Do you feel changes can be made within your school to reduce food and kitchen waste?

YES: ☐

NO: ☐

DON'T KNOW: ☐

12. The Council has to collect and dispose of food waste in an environmentally sustainable way. How much do you think food waste in schools cost the Council per annum?

☐ £0 - £250'000

☐ £250'001 - £500'000

☐ £500'001 - £850'000

13. Food waste is a major issue both for schools and society as a whole, do you feel pupils understand the implications of food waste?

YES: ☐

NO: ☐

DON'T KNOW: ☐

14. Do you feel more could be done to communicate the Scottish Government's nutritional guidance for school meals?

YES: ☐

NO: ☐

DON'T KNOW: ☐

15. Please provide comments to support your response to Q14 - communication of the Scottish Government's nutritional guidance for school meals:

16. The Scottish Government is creating policy on A Good Food Nation, do you feel this will have a positive impact on pupils diets and health?

YES: ☐

NO: ☐

DON'T KNOW: ☐

17. Do you have any further comments on Food In Schools?

---

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your feedback is important to help us understand the stakeholders' views on the delivery of school meals and will be reviewed to identify sustainable efficiencies as part of the Food In Schools Redesign work.

Last year, the council served 2,745,993 meals in schools. We aim to increase this number and provide a healthy food environment that students can enjoy and benefit from.

The Council spends around £850,000 per year disposing of waste from schools, a significant portion of which is food waste. We are working to raise awareness and reduce this waste as much as possible for both environmental and economic reasons.



Microsoft Forms

Members Survey Food In Schools

https://forms.office.com/Pages/DesignPageV2.aspx?origin=Neo...

Visitor Levy Expert...ActivatedCorporate...Microsoft FormsViva Engage - FeedNIC LIVE - Account Sum...Other favourites

FormsMembers Survey Food In Schools 2024/25 - Saved

StyleSettingsPreviewCollect responsesView responsesPresent

Templates

1. What Council Ward do you represent? \*

Select your answer

2. Do you receive regular correspondence from constituents on school meals? \*

	Regular	Sometimes	Rarely
Compliments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Complaints	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Queries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. From your experience, how would you rate the current school meal service?

	Excellent	OK	Poor
Value for money	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Staff courtesy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Speed of service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Menu choice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of food	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Presentation of food	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Range of choice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dining room experience	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. For those pupils who do not currently eat meals, which of the below do you perceive influences this?

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Value for money	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Speed of service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Menu choice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of food	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Time available to eat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dining room experience	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Options at external premises	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regularity of menu change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dining hall supervision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer influence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. Do you feel there are other factors to encourage pupils to take up school meals?

Enter your answer

6. From your experience, how healthy do you feel the following are:

	Very Healthy	Healthy	Slightly Unhealthy	Very Unhealthy
School meals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Children's general diets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. Are you aware of the Scottish Government Healthy Eating in Schools guidance?

Legislation available to view at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/healthy-eating-schools-guidance-2020/documents/>

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Do not know

8. The Scottish Government are creating policy on A Good Food Nation, were you previously aware of The Good Food Nations Legislation?

Legislation available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2022/5/contents>

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

9. Currently, the average school meal uptake in the Highlands is 72% for Primary School pupils and 44% for Secondary School pupils. Does this percentage meet your expectations?

- ☐ Higher than expected
- ☐ Lower than expected
- ☐ In line with expectations



Templates

10. From your experience, to what extent do you agree with the below statements?

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
School meals help pupils learn about the importance of nutrition and healthy eating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pupils understand the implications of food waste	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parents and pupils understand how the Catering Service manages dietary requirements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pupils are more likely to eat school meals if there is an active school community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. Is there anything that could be done to improve the current dining environment?

Enter your answer

12. Do you feel that that improving the dining environment will have a positive impact on pupils' relationship to food?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

13. Have you recently experienced the school meal service?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, but would like to
- ☐ No, and do not want to

14. We would be keen to welcome you to one of our schools to show you how the service works and the complexities involved, as well as allow the opportunity to interact with staff and pupils. Is this something you would be interested in doing?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

15. If you would like to attend the school or give us the opportunity to get back to you, please provide your name:

Enter your answer

16. Do you have any further comments about Food In Schools?

Enter your answer

# Food in Schools - Parent/Pupil Survey 2024/25

This survey has 16 questions and will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Please complete your survey by Tuesday 6th May 2025.

1. What school do you go to?

2. What class are you in?

3. Do you eat school meals?

YES: ☐

NO: ☐

4. On a usual week, how many days a week do you eat a school meal?

5. Tell me about the menu choices of school meals?



Excellent



Good



Fair



Poor

6. Tell me what you think of the taste of school food?



Excellent



Good



Fair



Poor

7. Do you always get what you order?



Excellent



Often



Sometimes



Rarely

8. Please rate these meals:

	Like	Don't like	Haven't tried
Cheese and Tomato Pizza	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sandwiches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soup	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Macaroni Cheese	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chicken Curry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Been Burger	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quorn Dippers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Veggie Fajita / Enchiladas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Veggie Curry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roast Beef	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Veggie Noodles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cheese Wheel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Steak Pie	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Baked Potatoes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tomato Pasta	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sausage Rolls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mince & Tatties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chicken Burgers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pasta Bolognese	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Veggie Fried Rice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. What would encourage you to eat school meals or choose them for more days of the school week?

☐ Shorter wait times

☐ More space to eat

☐ Food choices I like

☐ Longer lunch break

☐ Options for my diet

☐ If my friends took school meals

☐ Other?

10. Do you have enough to eat at lunchtime?



Always



Often



Sometimes



Rarely

11. Do you eat everything you are given?



Always



Often



Sometimes



Rarely

12. If you leave any food, what is the reason?

- ☐ Too much food
- ☐ Bits on the plate you don't like
- ☐ Still full from morning snack
- ☐ Want to get out and play
- ☐ Don't like sitting in dining room
- ☐ Other?

13. Has anyone spoken to you about food left on your plate when you finish your lunch?

YES: ☐

NO: 

DON'T KNOW: ☐

14. How would you rate the current catering service?

	Like	Don't like	Haven't tried
Value for money	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friendliness of staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Speed of service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Menu choice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality of food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Presentation of food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dining room experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

15. What can we do to increase the number of days your child/ren take school meals?

[illegible]

16. Do any of your children receive Free School Meals?

Did you know, that if your household is on low income you may be entitled to apply for Free School Meals and Clothing Grant? More information: <https://www.highland.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>

<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes – Universal Free School Meals P1 – P5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes – Universal Free School Meals – Special School
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes – Income-based Free School Meals

17. If you have used the Council's procedure for Special Diets:

Information and Process available at: <https://www.highland.gov.uk/specialdiet>

	Yes	No	Don't know
Did you find it easy to use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did you receive all the information you needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you feel the catering staff on site understand your child's requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

18. If you have used the process to apply for Free School Meals or Clothing Grants:

	Yes	No	Don't know
Did you find it easy to use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did you receive all the information you needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



19. Where do you receive information on menus?

- ☐ Internet
- ☐ Information sent home by school
- ☐ Other parents
- ☐ Parent Council
- ☐ Council website
- ☐ Social Media
- ☐ Don't know / I don't access information

20. Have you discussed food waste and sustainability of food with your child/ren at home?

YES: ☐

NO: ☐

21. The Council has to collect and dispose of food waste in an environmentally sustainable way. How much do you think food waste in schools cost the Council per annum?

- ☐ £0 - £250'000
- ☐ £250'001 - £500'000
- ☐ £500'001 - £850'000

---

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your feedback is important to help us understand the stakeholders' views on the delivery of school meals and will be reviewed to identify sustainable efficiencies as part of the Food In Schools Redesign work.

Last year, the council served 2,745,993 meals in schools. We aim to increase this number and provide a healthy food environment that students can enjoy and feel part of, to fuel them for a successful educational experience and build for their future.

The Council spends around £850,000 per year disposing of waste from schools, a significant portion of which is food waste. We are working to raise awareness and reduce this waste as much as possible for both environmental and economic reasons.

All menus are accessible on the council website at [www.highland.gov.uk/schoolmeals](http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolmeals)

Scottish Government legislation entitles all Early Years and Primary 1-5 pupils to a free meal everyday they are in school. There is also entitlement by benefits/income for those out with these groups who may be entitled. Information and application for this can be found at [www.highland.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.highland.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)

# Food in Schools - Parent Survey 2024/25

This survey has 14 questions and will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Please complete your survey by Tuesday 6th May 2025.

1. What school do your children attend?

2. How many children do you have that attend this school and what school year are they in?

3. Are your children entitled to Free School Meals?

Did you know, that if your household is on low income you may be entitled to apply for Free School Meals and Clothing Grant? More information:

<https://www.highland.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>

YES: ☐

NO: ☐

4. If you have used the process to apply for Free School Meals or Clothing Grants:

	Yes	No	Don't know
Did you find it easy to use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did you receive all the information you needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. On a usual week, how many days a week does your child eat school meals?

Child / Grade	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days	5 Days	Less often
e.g. Child 1 - P1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. How would you rate the current catering service – this could be based on feedback from your child?

	Like	Don't like	Haven't tried
Value for money	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friendliness of staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Speed of service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Menu choice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality of food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Presentation of food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dining room experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. If your children do not currently take school meals regularly or they have reduced how often they take school meals, to what extent do any of the below affect this choice? (Please select all that apply)

☐ Value for money

☐ Menu choice

☐ Dining experience

☐ Regularity of menu change

☐ Food quality

☐ Portion sizes

☐ Allergy and dietary requirements

☐ Other?

8. What can we do to increase the number of days your child/ren take school meals?

9. If you have used the Council's procedure for Special Diets:  
Information and Process available at: <https://www.highland.gov.uk/specialdiet>

	Yes	No	Don't know
Did you find it easy to use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did you receive all the information you needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you feel the catering staff on site understand your child's requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. Where do you receive information on menus?

☐ Internet

☐ Information sent home by school

☐ Other parents

☐ Parent Council

☐ Council website

☐ Social Media

☐ Don't know / I don't access information

11. Do you feel your child/ren is always able to get their preferred menu choice?

YES: ☐ NO: ☐ DON'T KNOW: ☐

12. Do you feel your child/ren's relationship with Healthy Eating is helped by school meals?

YES: ☐ NO: ☐ DON'T KNOW: ☐

13. Have you discussed food waste and sustainability of food with your child/ren at home?

YES: ☐ NO: ☐

14. The Council has to collect and dispose of food waste in an environmentally sustainable way. How much do you think food waste in schools cost the Council per annum?

☐ £0 - £250'000

☐ £250'001 - £500'000

☐ £500'001 - £850'000

---

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your feedback is important to help us understand the stakeholders' views on the delivery of school meals and will be reviewed to identify sustainable efficiencies as part of the Food In Schools Redesign work.

Last year, the council served 2,745,993 meals in schools. We aim to increase this number and provide a healthy food environment that students can enjoy and feel part of, to fuel them for a successful educational experience and build for their future.

The Council spends around £850,000 per year disposing of waste from schools, a significant portion of which is food waste. We are working to raise awareness and reduce this waste as much as possible for both environmental and economic reasons.

All menus are accessible on the council website at [www.highland.gov.uk/schoolmeals](http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolmeals)

Scottish Government legislation entitles all Early Years and Primary 1-5 pupils to a free meal everyday they are in school. There is also entitlement by benefits/income for those out with these groups who may be entitled. Information and application for this can be found at [www.highland.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.highland.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)

# Food in Schools - Primary School Pupil Survey 2024/25

1. What school do you go to?

2. What class are you in?

3. Do you eat school meals?

YES: ☐

NO: ☐

4. How many days a week do you eat a school meal?

5. Tell me about the menu choices of school meals?



Excellent



Good



Fair



Poor

6. Tell me what you think of the taste of school meals?



Excellent



Good



Fair



Poor

7. Do you always get what you order?



Excellent



Often



Sometimes



Never

8. Please rate these meals:

	Like	Don't like	Haven't tried
Cheese and Tomato Pizza	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sandwiches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soup	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Macaroni Cheese	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chicken Curry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Been Burger	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quorn Dippers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Veggie Fajita / Enchiladas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Veggie Curry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roast Beef	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Veggie Noodles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cheese Wheel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Steak Pie	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Baked Potatoes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tomato Pasta	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sausage Rolls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mince & Tatties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chicken Burgers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pasta Bolognese	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Veggie Fried Rice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



9. What would encourage you to eat school meals or choose them for more days of the school week? Please choose all that apply.

- ☐ Shorter wait times
- ☐ More space to eat
- ☐ Food choices I like
- ☐ Longer lunch break
- ☐ Options for my diet
- ☐ If my friends took school meals
- ☐ Other?

10. Do you have enough to eat at lunchtime?



Always



Often



Sometimes



Rarely

11. Do you eat everything you are given?



Always



Often



Sometimes



Rarely

12. If you leave any food, what is the reason?

- ☐ Too much food
- ☐ Bits on the plate you don't like
- ☐ Still full from morning snack
- ☐ Want to get out and play
- ☐ Don't like sitting in dining room

13. Has anyone spoken to you about food left on your plate when you finish your lunch?

YES: ☐

NO: ☐

DON'T KNOW: ☐

# Food in Schools – School Staff Survey 2024/25

1. What school(s) do you work at?

2. How would you rate the current catering service at your school?

	Excellent	Ok	Poor	Don't know
Value for money	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friendliness of staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Speed of service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Menu choice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality of food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Presentation of food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dining room experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. How healthy do you feel the following are:

	Very Healthy	Fairly Healthy	Fairly Unhealthy	Very Unhealthy
School meals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children's overall diets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Do you feel school meals help pupils learn about the importance of nutrition?

YES: ☐

NO: ☐

DON'T KNOW: ☐

5. For those pupils who do not currently eat school meals, how much of an influence do you feel the following factors have?

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Value for money	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friendliness of staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Speed of service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Menu choice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality of food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Time available to eat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dining room experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Options at external premises	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regularity of menu change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Peer influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. What other factors, if any, do you think would encourage pupils to take up school meals?

7. How many supervisors are usually present in the dining room at lunchtime?

8. Who usually supervises in the dining room at lunchtime?

- ☐ School Management
  - ☐ Teachers
  - ☐ Pupil Support Assistants
  - ☐ Specific Dining Room Supervisor
  - ☐ Other?

9. From your observation in the dining hall in your school, do you feel food waste is an issue?

YES: ☐ NO: ☐ DON'T KNOW: ☐

10. Do you feel the dining experience in your school is conducive to encouraging children to eat a healthy lunch and build a positive relationship with food?

YES: ☐ NO: ☐ DON'T KNOW: ☐

11. The Council has to collect and dispose of food waste in an environmentally sustainable way. How much do you think food waste in schools cost the Council per annum?

- |                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | £0 - £250'000       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | £250'001 - £500'000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | £500'001 - £850'000 |

12. Food waste is a major issue both for schools and society as a whole, do you feel pupils understand the implications of food waste?

YES: ☐ NO: ☐ DON'T KNOW: ☐

13. Do you feel changes can be made within your school to reduce food and kitchen waste?

--

14. Do you feel more could be done to communicate the Scottish Government's nutritional guidance for school meals?

YES: ☐

NO: ☐

DON'T KNOW: ☐

15. Would you be open to using the school menu to help teach *Learning for Sustainability* and *Health and Wellbeing* to pupils?

YES: ☐

NO: ☐

DON'T KNOW: ☐

16. What do you feel could be done to improve using the school menu to help teach *Learning for Sustainability* and *Health and Wellbeing* to pupils?

17. Do you feel you understand and are engaged with how the catering service manages dietary requirements for pupils? Details and application available at: <https://www.highland.gov.uk/specialdiet>

YES: ☐

NO: ☐

DON'T KNOW: ☐

18. The Scottish Government are creating policy on A Good Food Nation, do you feel this will have a positive impact on pupils diets and health? Legislation available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2022/5/contents>

YES: ☐

NO: ☐

DON'T KNOW: ☐

19. Do you have any further comments on Food In Schools?

---

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your feedback is important to help us understand the stakeholders' views on the delivery of school meals and will be reviewed to identify sustainable efficiencies as part of the Food In Schools Redesign work.

Last year, the council served 2,745,993 meals in schools. We aim to increase this number and provide a healthy food environment that students can enjoy and benefit from.

The Council spends around £850,000 per year disposing of waste from schools, a significant portion of which is food waste. We are working to raise awareness and reduce this waste as much as possible for both environmental and economic reasons.

Microsoft Forms

Secondary School Parent/Carer Survey

https://forms.office.com/Pages/DesignPageV2.aspx?origin=Neo...

Visitor Levy Expert...ActivatedCorporate...Microsoft FormsViva Engage - FeedNICE LIVE - Account Sum...Other favourites

FormsSecondary School Parent/Carer Survey Food In Schools 2024/25 - Saved

StyleSettingsPreview

Collect responsesView responses412

Present

Templates

1. Please select the school that your child/ren attend(s)? \*

Select your answer

2. How many children do you have that attend this school? \*

1

2

3

4

5

3. Please select below the school year for each child:  
A separate survey is sent out for primary school aged children.

	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6
Child 1	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Child 2	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Child 3	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Child 4	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Child 5	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

4. Are your children entitled to Free School Meals? \*

Did you know, that if your household is on low income you may be entitled to apply for Free School Meals and Clothing Grant?  
More information: <https://www.highland.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>

Yes - income-related/benefits entitlement

Yes - universal provision - Special School

No



5. If you have used the process to apply for Free School Meals or Clothing Grants:

	Yes	No
Did you find it easy to use?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Did you receive all the information you required?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. On a usual week, how many days does your child eat school meals?

	1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days	5 days	Less often	Doesn't use service
Child 1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child 3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child 4	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child 5	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. How would you rate the current catering service?

	Excellent	Ok	Poor	Don't know
Value for money	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Friendliness of staff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Speed of service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Menu choice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of food	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Presentation of food	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dining room experience	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. If your child does not currently take school meals regularly or they have reduced how often they take school meals, to what extent do any of the below affect this choice? \*

Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Value for money
- ☐ Menu choice
- ☐ Dining experience
- ☐ Regularity of menu change
- ☐ Food quality
- ☐ Portion sizes
- ☐ Allergy and dietary requirements
- ☐ Other

9. What can we do to increase the number of days your child/ren take school meals?

Enter your answer

10. If you have used the Council's procedure for Special Diets:

Information and Process available at: <https://www.highland.gov.uk/specialdiet>

	Yes	No	Don't know
Did you find it easy to use?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Did you receive all the information you needed?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you feel the catering staff on site understand your child's requirements?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. Where do you receive information on menus?

Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Internet
- ☐ Information sent home by school
- ☐ Other parents
- ☐ Parent Council
- ☐ Council website
- ☐ Social Media
- ☐ Don't know, I don't access information

12. Do you feel your child/ren is always able to get their preferred menu choice?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

13. Do you feel your child/ren's relationship with healthy eating is helped by school meals?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

14. Have you discussed food waste and sustainability of food with your child/ren at home? \*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

15. The Council has to collect and dispose of food waste in an environmentally sustainable way. How much do you think food waste in schools cost the Council per annum?

- ☐ £0 - £250,000
- ☐ £250,001 - £500,00
- ☐ £500,001 - £850,000

# Food in Schools - Secondary Pupil Survey 2024/25

1. What school do you attend?

2. What school year are you in?

3. On a usual week, how many days a week do you eat a school meal?

	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days	5 Days	Less often
Morning break	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lunch time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go to the shops	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do not eat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. How often are school lunches your main meal of the day?

- ☐ Every Day
- ☐ 3-4 times per week
- ☐ 1-2 times per week
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Don't know

5. How would you rate the current catering service?

	Excellent	Ok	Poor	Don't know
Friendliness of staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Speed of service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Menu choice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality of food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Presentation of food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dining room experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Which of the following options are most important to you in choosing whether to have a school meal? Please select at most 3 options.

- ☐ Value for money
- ☐ Menu choice
- ☐ Dining space / environment
- ☐ Food quality
- ☐ Portion sizes
- ☐ Dietary options
- ☐ Time available
- ☐ Availability of online order / card payment
- ☐ Promotions on meals

7. Our Meal deal including 2 courses, Vegetables, Fruit and a drink is £2.65. Do you feel this is value for money?

YES: ☐

NO: ☐

DON'T KNOW: ☐

8. Which items below would you like to see on the school menus?

	More often	Same	Less often
Indian based dishes e.g. curries & Dhals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian based dishes e.g. Noodles & Rice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mexican based dishes eg Burritos, Quesidillas, Tacos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plant based dishes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Salad bar options	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Processed options e.g. pre-made pizzas, pizzinis, Quorn Dippers etc	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Homemade options e.g. traditional meals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Variety in the hot & cold snack items	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Theme days	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Does your school have a pre-order system available?

☐ Yes - I use it

☐ Yes - But I do not use it

☐ No - I would use if available

☐ No - But I would not use it

☐ Don't know

10. Do you use the published menu options to make an informed decision on your choices?

☐ Yes - I am aware of them and use them

☐ I do not know where menu options are published

☐ Do not use published menu options

11. If you leave any food, what is the reason?

- ☐ Too much food
- ☐ Bits on the plate you do not like
- ☐ Still full from morning snack
- ☐ Want to get out and play
- ☐ Don't like sitting in dining hall
- ☐ Other?

12. Have you discussed food waste and sustainability? Please select all that apply

- ☐ At Home
- ☐ In School
- ☐ With Friends
- ☐ Never discussed

---

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your feedback is important to help us understand the stakeholders' views on the delivery of school meals and will be reviewed to identify sustainable efficiencies as part of the Food In Schools Redesign work.

Last year, the council served 2,745,993 meals in schools. We aim to increase this number and provide a healthy food environment that students can enjoy and benefit from.

The Council spends around £850,000 per year disposing of waste from schools, a significant portion of which is food waste. We are working to raise awareness and reduce this waste as much as possible for both environmental and economic reasons.