

Food For Thought Campaign



CAMPAIGN BRIEF

What?

'Food for Thought' is the Scottish Trade Union Congress (STUC) Women's Committee's campaign to expand universal free school meal provision to all young people attending publicly funded nursery, primary, and secondary schools in Scotland. We believe that hunger knows no age boundaries; and that every child and young person should have access to a nutritious, stigma-free meal as part of their school day.

We are campaigning for the Scottish Government to (a) accelerate the rollout and deliver upon the existing commitment to expand universal free school meals to all primary pupils (b) expand the provision of universal free school meal entitlement to all secondary school pupils (c) Invest and equip local government with the resources and tools to deliver universal school meal expansion (d) Fund local authorities to deliver school meal holiday provision.

Why?

- To mitigate food poverty and child hunger.
- To help make real all children and young people's right to food.
- To guarantee access to at least one nutritious meal per day.
- To eliminate the stigma and shame associated with free school meals.
- To embed equity, equality, and inclusion in schools.
- To build upon the existing universal provision offered at primary school.
- To support efforts to tackle the poverty-related educational attainment gap.
- To reduce bureaucratic and access barriers.
- To improve young people's nutrition.

Universal free meals remain the best way to ensure that all young people have access to a healthy and nutritious meal at school, without any stigma being attached. With the cost-of-living crisis pushing ever more families into financial difficulty, it is more imperative than ever that universal free school meals should be a priority. This is an action that the Scottish Government can take today.