



NOTICE OF MOTION FOR FULL COUNCIL

Title of Motion:

UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL DINNERS FOR
PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Date of Council meeting:

28TH September 2023

Proposer of Motion:

(Name and signature)

Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan

Seconder of Motion:

(Name and signature)

Councillor Debbie Darby

Background/supporting information (maximum 100 words):

Evidence shows that free school meals (FSMs) improve children's economic, educational and health outcomes throughout life however it's estimated that currently 800,000 children live in poverty but aren't eligible for FSMs due to the low eligibility threshold. In Nottinghamshire 23.2% of pupils currently receive FSMs (much higher in Ashfield, Bassetlaw and Mansfield).

<https://academic.oup.com/restud/article/89/2/876/6273674?login=true>

<https://cpag.org.uk/news-blogs/news-listings/800000-children-poverty-not-getting-free-school-meals>

[Universal free school meals would make a huge difference to the cost-of-living crisis – here's how \(theconversation.com\)](#)

All infant school-age children are entitled to FSMs. In London, every primary school-age child in state-funded schools are now receiving FSMs this academic year and universal FSMs are being rolled out in primary schools in Scotland and Wales.

<https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-mayor-does/priorities-london/free-school-meals>

In Nottinghamshire there are 135 state-funded Primaries and 123 Academies.

Motion to be proposed (active section):

Nottinghamshire County Council resolves:

- 1) To note the impact the provision of free school meals has in improving children's economic, educational and health outcomes throughout life.**
- 2) To investigate providing each pupil in Local Authority controlled Primary Schools with a free school meal. The feasibility study would look at process, cost and how to resource it.**
- 3) That this Council will further ask the Department of Education to increase the annual payment to Academy Schools to extend Universal infant free school meals to all Primary Schools in Nottinghamshire.**

Date and time received:

(for completion by Democratic Services)

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