



Food strategy conversation starters

Food sustains us, gives us pleasure and creates social bonds. It also costs, both financially and environmentally. Do you have a vision for food in your setting? What does a sustainable food strategy mean for you? Use these questions with staff, leaders, governors and pupils to start conversations and develop your food strategy.

10 questions

1. What's the purpose of food in our school? What or who do we want to nourish?
2. Where does our food come from? What do we know about our supply chain?
3. What's our food mileage? How much of our food is grown or raised in the UK?
4. How much of our food gets wasted? How much of that is plate waste (the child didn't eat it), counter waste (we didn't sell it) or production waste (e.g. we had something in the fridge that didn't get used and went off)?
5. What happens to our food waste? What does that cost us?
6. What's our cost per school meal? What's the gap between this and what we receive in free school meal funding?
7. What do we do to incentivise or encourage take-up of free school meals?
8. Is our dining hall a pleasant place to eat?
9. What do our pupils think about our food offer?
10. How or where does food feature in our curriculum?

Reports for further unpicking

- [A UK government food strategy for England, considering the wider UK food system - GOV.UK](#)
- [Follow the Carrot: Can free school meal expansion boost the UK food and farming economy? | Sustain](#)

Related Need to Knows

- [What's happening with food in schools?](#)
- [How much does a school meal cost?](#)
- [The case for auto-enrolment](#)
- [Why do breakfast clubs matter?](#)

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