

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 14 OCTOBER 2021**

**Question to Cllr Price  
Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND)**

**By Cllr Hussain**

---

**Question**

When children are hungry, they are unable to concentrate on their studies, which has a detrimental impact on their academic performance and affects their immune system later in life. What more can be done to ensure that children receive an uninterrupted balanced diet in their free school meals, as well as better value for money for those who pay for the food during the term, given that this is often the only major meal of the day for many children, and what strategy is in place to protect them from holiday hunger?

---

Since September 2014, children in Reception, year 1 or year 2 can receive free school meals even if they do not meet the entitlement criteria. For other ages, children have to meet the entitlement criteria set by the DfE in order to access a free school meal.

Food served in local authority maintained schools and academies must meet the school food standards so that children have healthy, balanced diets. The school food standards are to ensure that food provided to pupils in school is nutritious and of high quality; promotes good nutritional health in all pupils; protects those who are nutritionally vulnerable and promotes good eating behaviour.

A number of initiatives are currently underway to prevent Holiday Hunger, these include;

- **Holiday Activities and Food:** This is a scheme that was delivered for the first time in Staffordshire this year, but has seen thousands of children across the county access both activities and nutritious food during the holidays.
- **COVID Winter, Locality and latterly the Household Grant:** This scheme administered via LA's on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions has offered children across Staffordshire who access FSM access to supermarket vouchers throughout the holidays to ensure that children and their families have access to food throughout the holidays. We have supported families to make healthy meals using our videos and recipe cards online at [Family Hub Cooking | Staffordshire Connects](#)