

CHEFS IN SCHOOLS

FEED BELLIES

NOT BINS



**CHEFS IN
SCHOOLS!**

We're on a mission to transform kids' health through food – plate by plate, class by class, school by school. We train school kitchen teams to make tasty, exciting and affordable meals that are packed with fresh, local produce.

Our proven and innovative models, of onsite or blended training, put food education at the heart of a school, laying the foundations of a life-long love of nourishing food.

We want generation-powering, mind opening food available in every school. Better is possible in school food.

Kids are the future, let's feed them like it.

OUR

MISSION

STATEMEN

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**CHEFS IN
SCHOOLS!**

FOOD WASTE IN SCHOOLS

IS IT THAT BAD
AND WHY DOES
IT MATTER?

SCHOOLS , MEALS AND THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Around 5 million meals are served each day across the English schools, with the average age of consumers is 10 years old, so naturally there's going to be some wastage.

But can you guess how much?

WHY THIS MATTERS

Social impacts: In the UK alone, around 2.7 million children are experiencing food poverty. School food waste means lost nourishment, focus and energy for pupils who rely on it as their main source of nutrition.

Financial impacts: A substantial amount of money is wasted each year when edible food goes in the bin – around £250 million pounds.

Environmental impacts: Did you know that if global food waste was a country, it would be the 3rd biggest emitter of greenhouses gasses in the world?

'EAT IT UP' & FUNDING



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In 2024, Chefs in Schools were awarded a grant from **Hubbub** covering two years of delivery. Hubbub is an organisation that supports initiatives providing new solutions to environmental and social problems.

The specific campaign through which Hubbub aims at tackling food waste was called **Eat It Up**. Projects that do some or all of the following are eligible.

- Addressing pre-farmgate waste (food production)
- Preventing food from being wasted in manufacturing or processing
- Minimising food waste from retailers (or schools in our case)
- Finding ways to use surplus food in creative ways in communities or at home

OUR PROPOSAL



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The Chefs in School funding proposal was straightforward.

Schools are less likely to waste food if the following points are true.

- 1.** The food tastes great, not just 'meh'
- 2.** Kitchen teams and support staff are aware of their responsibility to engage with pupils at lunchtime, providing low pressure and consistent encouragement at meal times
- 3.** The issue of food waste is firstly recognised, then measured and acted upon in small but meaningful ways – starting with the biggest contributing factors.
- 4.** A whole school approach is taken to reduce food waste, no single department or group is to blame.
- 5.** Pupils are given the opportunity to contribute to what goes on the plate and take some accountability for what's left

OUR SCE TRAINING



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The way in which we planned to achieve this was through our **School Chef Educator Programme**. A one of kind 10 week, hybrid training course designed to empower, connect and upskill kitchen teams.

Since launching in 2023, over **330 kitchen team members** from over **275 schools**, have graduated the programme, with a combined pupil roll of over **100 thousand pupils**.

This hybrid training programme covers 8 different topics, including food waste, which was developed further for this project.

Over the course of the programme and with the support of dedicated Chef Trainer, participants benefit from 16 hours of professional development – through in-person training days, self-guided online learning and weekly webinars hosted on Zoom.

DELIVERABLES



**CHEFS IN
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With the funding from Hubbub and the Eat It Up fund, the following deliverables were agreed:

3 cohorts of the School Chef Educator Programme (upto 45 participants in total)

Cohorts will delivered across three distinct regions of England and include primary and secondary schools – to prove the concept on a national scale.

Each participating school is to measure their food waste, before and after their training programme to measure impact
Using data lead research and input from subject matter experts a Food Waste Toolkit is to be produced and made available as open resource to all schools

We are proud to say all of these were achieved!

SCHOOLS

INVOLVED



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Overall Cohort Data:

- **35 graduates** from **33 schools**, across three regions, the West Midlands, East Midlands and the South East. A combined pupil roll of over 17 thousand pupils.
- **18 Primary schools** and **15 Secondary schools** including from 3 Multi-Academy Trusts in **Birmingham, Nottingham and Essex**.
Arthur Terry Learning Partnership, Archway Learning Trust and Burnt Mill Academy Trust.

For engagement and operational reasons it was decided that it would be most effective to train schools within MATs. The benefits are:

- central operations teams can support with communications and recruitment
- menus are often the same across multiple schools, making the food waste data more reliable
- food waste data can be aggregated and used for ongoing operational decision making including menu design.

PRE & POST TRAINING

CHEFS IN SCHOOLS & ARTHUR TERRY LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

DAILY FOOD WASTE SHEET DAY: DATE:

KITCHEN WASTE
Fruit & vegetable peelings, trimmings, spoiled food, offcuts & unwanted by-products
NOTES:

TOTAL KG:

SERVICE WASTE
Food that is not eaten from the service counter or salad bars - which cannot be served again
NOTES:

TOTAL KG:

PLATE WASTE
Edible uneaten food scraped into the dining hall bins
NOTES:

TOTAL KG:

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MEASURING FOOD WASTE

PRE INTERVENTION FOOD WASTE MEASUREMENT

In order to know the scale of food waste in your school, first you need to measure it. The first food waste measurement week should give you a total wastage figure to work from going forward.

To get an accurate figure that reflects normal attitudes to waste, no changes should be made at all in the kitchen or dining hall - just measure the quantity of normal daily food waste.

WHAT ARE YOU MEASURING?

KITCHEN WASTE
Usually fruit & vegetable peelings and trimmings, spoiled food, offcuts & unwanted by-products.

SERVICE WASTE
Food that is not eaten from the service counter or salad bars - which cannot be served again.

PLATE WASTE
Edible uneaten food scraped into the dining hall bins.

HOW ARE YOU MEASURING?

Using the scales provided plus 3 appropriately sized bins to measure the 3 different sources of waste, record the weight every time each bin gets full - using our monitoring sheets.

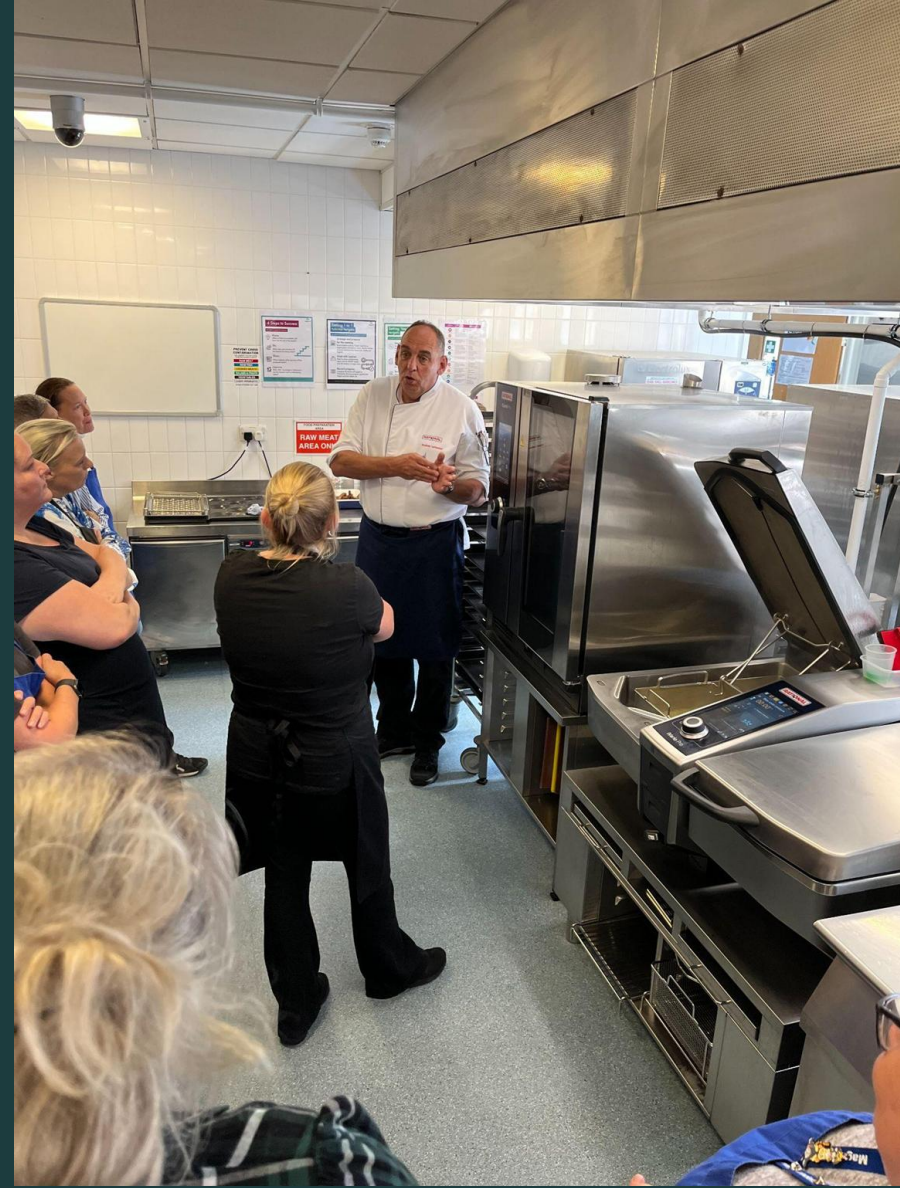
It is important that other sources of waste (packaging, non food etc) are not added to the food waste bins.

After a 5 day period or one school week, calculate the combined weight of each category and the total weight of all three.

WHAT NEXT?

We will be in touch to arrange the training day. Following the training, a Food Waste Reduction Toolkit will be made available, including loads of ideas, strategies and educational resources to help you continue reducing food waste in your schools into the future.

CHARITY NUMBER: 1178844 REGISTERED ADDRESS: 1001 TUCKER ROAD, HANLEY, BIRMINGHAM, B37 7YU
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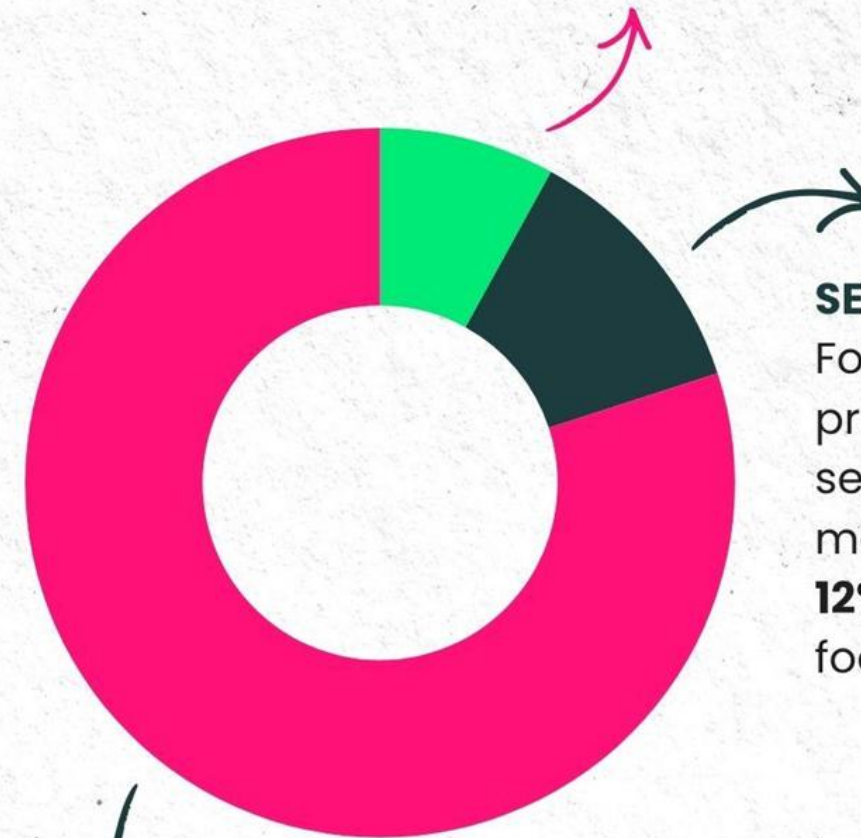
DATA & IMPACT

Total **pre training** waste
across all participating
schools
1,191kg

Total post training waste
772 kg

KITCHEN WASTE:

Food prep waste such as onion skins, banana peels and lemon rinds, accounted for roughly **8%** of the total food waste.



SERVICE WASTE:

Food that was prepared but not served or eaten, made up roughly **12%** of the total food waste.

PLATE WASTE:

Any uneaten food scraped into the bin was roughly **80%** of the total food waste.



Data gathered from Chefs in Schools
2025 Food Waste Programme

DATA & IMPACT

Financial savings from reducing food waste by approximately 20g per meal served.

Waste reduction per child per day	Saving per child per week (based on £3/kg)	Savings per child per 38/39 week school year	Savings per 100 students per school year
20g	£0.30	£11.70	£1,170.00

*Key results from participating schools:

- **Average food waste**, per pupil, reduced from 89g to 69g (a significant **reduction of 22%**)
- **53% reduction in kitchen waste** (food offcuts, trimmings, peelings etc)
- **32% reduction in service waste** (what's not served, has been overproduced)
- **33% reduction in plate waste** (uneaten food, scraped in the bin)
- On average **over 15kg of total food waste reduced** per school, per week



PLEASE DOWNLOAD OUR FOOD WASTE TOOLKIT FOR MORE

chefsinschools.org.uk/support/resources/



THANK YOU FOR
TAKING AN INTEREST IN THE
SCHOOL FOOD REVOLUTION.

CHEFS IN
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