
School Food Standards Pilot

Agenda

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School Food Standards

- It is important that children eat nutritious, tasty food at school as fuel for learning, to help their growth and development and so that they develop healthy eating habits.
- The standards define **the foods and drinks that must be provided**, which **foods are restricted**, and those **which must not be provided**.
- They apply to all food and drink provided to pupils on and off school premises and during an extended school day (**up to 6pm**).

School Food Standards

The current School Food Standards were developed by the School Food Plan Standards Panel.

The Panel undertook to create a clearer set of food-based standards that:

- Provided caterers with a framework on which to build interesting, creative, and nutritionally balanced menus.
- Were less burdensome and operationally cheaper to implement than the previous nutrient-based School Food Standards that were in place.

Background

- **2021-2022** National Food Strategy is published.
 - An independent review commissioned by government to set out a vision and a plan for a better food system.
- **February 2022** Levelling Up White Paper is published.
 - Outlines several initiatives to implement recommendations from the National Food Strategy and strengthen aspects of school food provision.
 - *'In line with Henry Dimbleby's recommendations, a joint project will be launched between Department for Education and the Food Standards Agency, to design and test a new approach for local authorities in assuring and supporting compliance with School Food Standards.'*

Importance of the pilot

- Healthy food helps children to concentrate, develop, and live a healthy and active life.
- Evidence suggests school lunch is the main meal of the day for many children and school food provides a significant proportion of a child's overall nutrition.
- In the current economic climate, school food can provide a nutritional safety net for children and families.

About the School Food Standards compliance pilot

The pilot will test the hypothesis that:

- Food Safety Officers carrying out food hygiene inspections are able to ask questions and make observations related to the School Food Standards to identify potential instances of non-compliance with the standards;

and

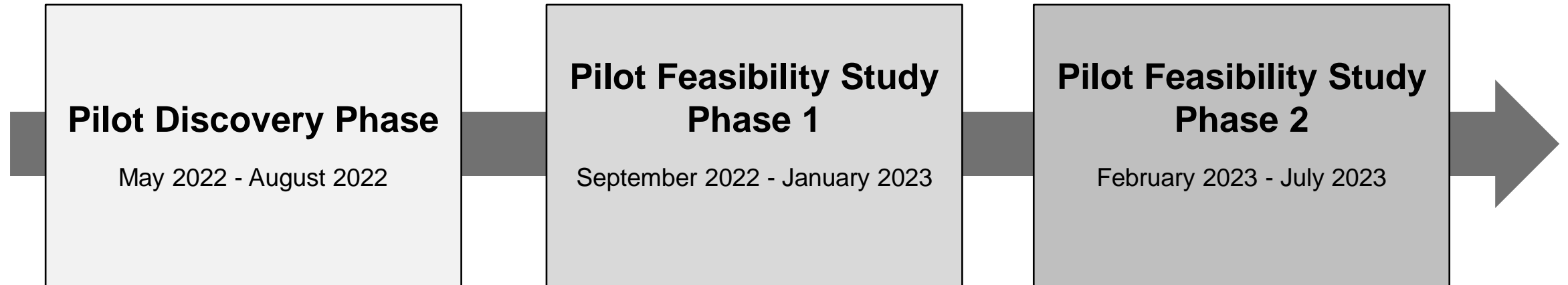
- Where potential instances of non-compliance have been raised, appropriate teams within local authorities will be able to provide support to schools.

About the School Food Standards compliance pilot

- All food establishments are subject to routine food hygiene inspections. The pilot tests whether we can add a few questions relating to the School Food Standards onto these pre-existing, routine inspections.
- Food Safety Officers will ask site staff questions, check menus, and make observations related to the School Food Standards to identify potential non-compliance.
- Where Food Safety Officers find possible instances of non-compliance, these will be passed to the local authority to consider how they can support schools to make improvements.

Timeline

The pilot will develop across a number of phases:



The FSA's Role

- As the only government body that looks solely at food, the FSA has the **expertise to offer positive, friendly and unique challenge** to help ensure an effective pilot.
- This project is closely aligned with the FSA's strategy (2022-2027) and it is an important part of how the organisation is helping to **deliver a food system that is healthier and more sustainable.**

Contact

If you have any questions, we would be happy to answer them.

Please send them to: **sfscpliance.pilot@education.gov.uk**

Feedback

1. What do you think about the design of the pilot?
2. What do you think local authorities could be doing to respond to any possible non-compliance identified in the School Food Standards check?

Thank you for listening