



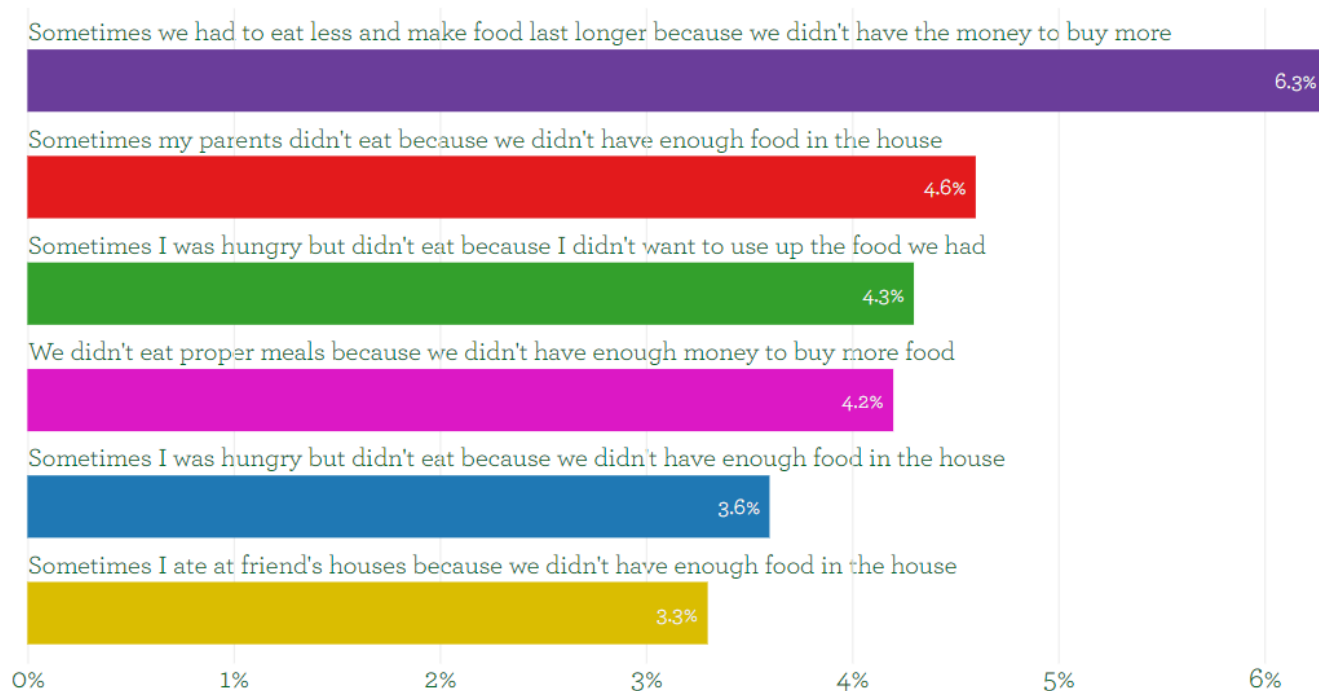
Children's Right2Food

Anna Taylor

Why current levels of provision are not enough

Food insecurity over the summer holidays

Over 1.4 million children (18%) aged 8-17 reported experiences of food insecurity over the summer holidays



*not mutually exclusive

- 14% of parents whose children aren't on Free School Meals would like them to receive them.

- 21% of 8-17 year old children who aren't on Free School Meals would like to be able to receive them

Why current levels of provision are not enough



- Analysis conducted by the Children’s Society shows that there are **700,000 children** of school age who are not eligible for free school meals, but whose family income, after housing costs, is **less than £10** per head per day
- Undocumented children and children with **No Recourse to Public Funds**
 - Between 2013-15, over **50,000 individuals** with dependents were granted leave to remain with a NRPF condition
 - There are estimated to be **120,000 undocumented children** in the UK

Extending Free School Meals



Government arguments for not extending Free School Meals have included the following:

- Extending eligibility to all families on Universal Credit would result in almost half of all school pupils becoming entitled to free school meals.
- FSM are tied to pupil premium so would have a larger additional cost
- Some people on Universal Credit are “relatively affluent” and therefore FSM would be misplaced.
- Support is being provided through the welfare system
- Schools should not be used as a provider of welfare support
- It would require increased taxes
- It is a parent’s responsibility to feed their children

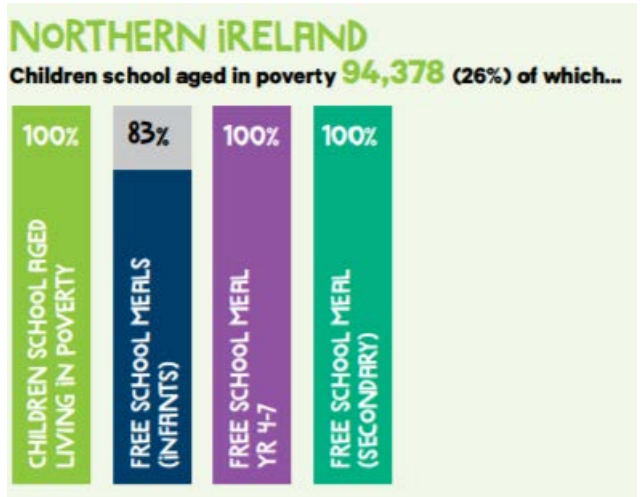


Counter-Argument: Incomes on UC and the cliff edge

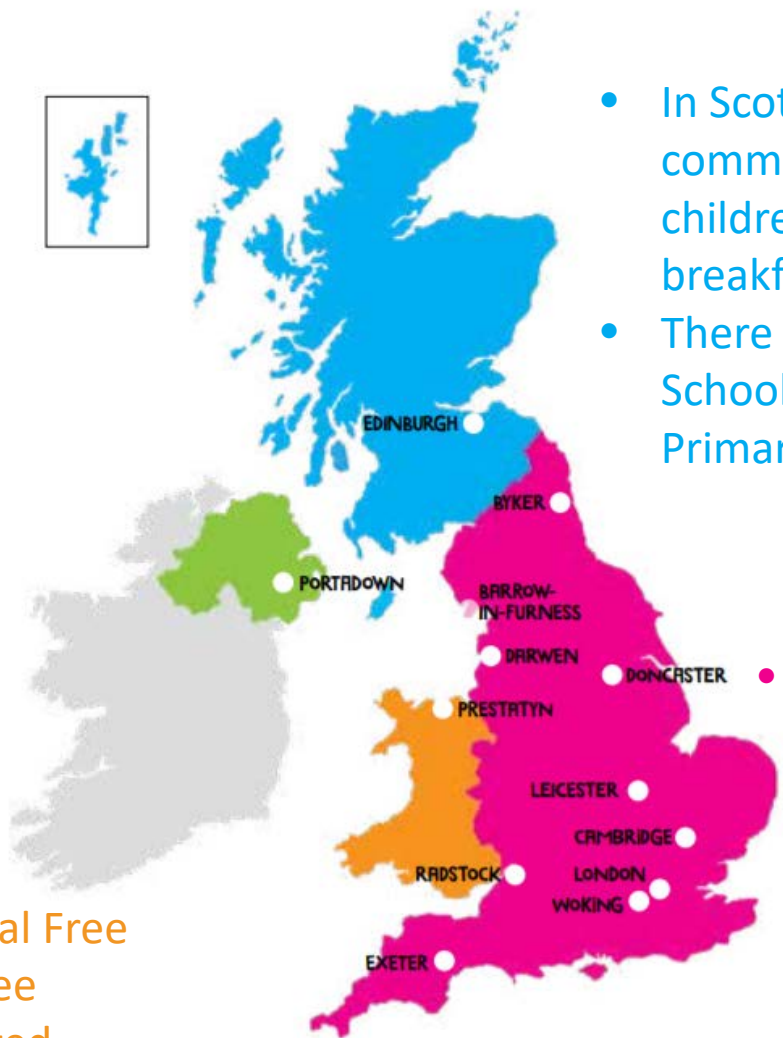
- Currently, only children from **very low-income households** are eligible for free school meals (those with an annual income of £7,400, or less, before benefits).
- Latest statistics published by the Department for Work and Pensions show **over half of working age adults on Universal Credit (59%) and of children living in households on UC (56%) live in poverty**
- Of the top 10% of the income distribution of those in receipt of Universal Credit 99% have children, and they receive, on average, just £27 a week more than that which The Joseph Rowntree Foundation defines as the minimum socially acceptable standard of living for a family with two children (this was just £7 before the government increase Universal Credit payments in response to COVID) (Turn2Us).

Universal Free School Meals across the 4 nations

- In Northern Ireland, the income threshold to qualify for Free School Meals is £14,000 compared with £7,400 in the other three nations.



- In Wales, there is no Universal Free School Meal Provision, all Free School Meals are means-tested

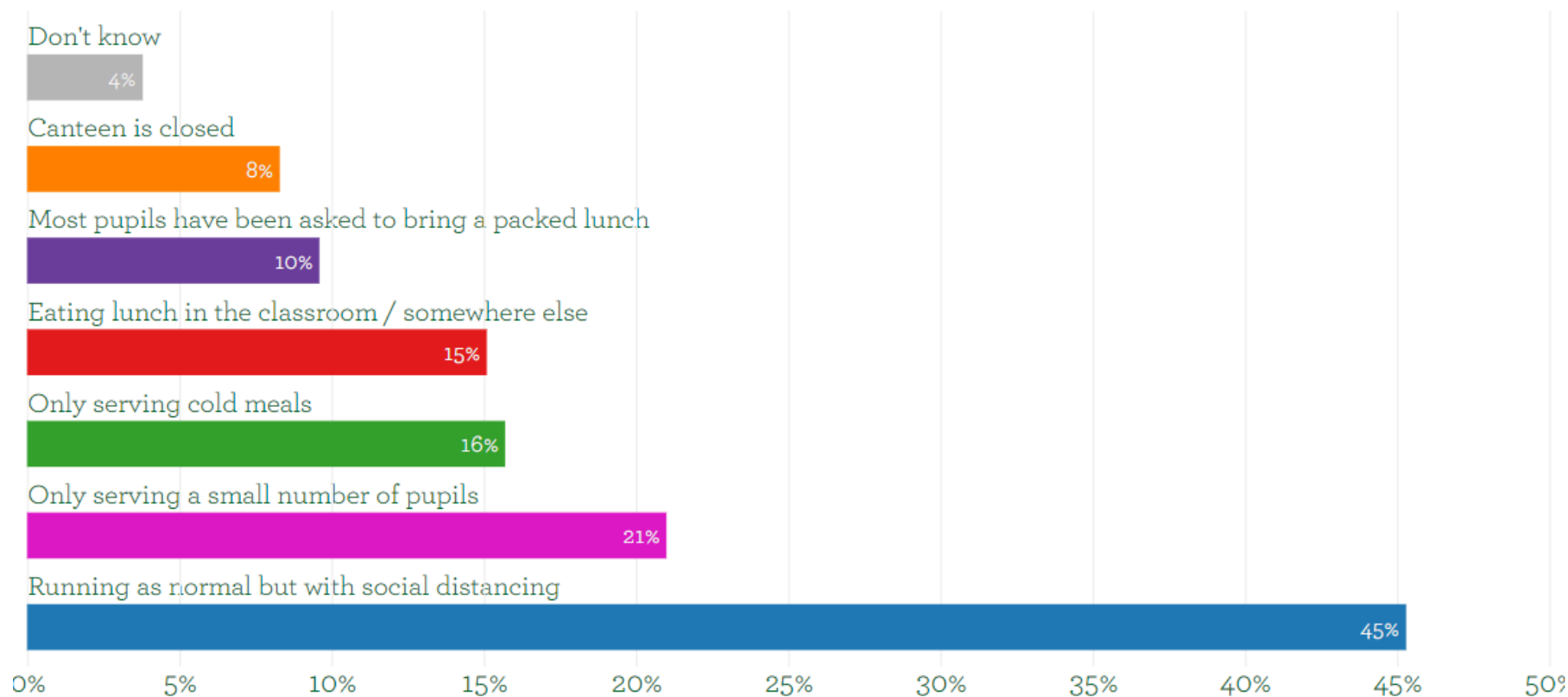


- In Scotland, the SNP Manifesto has committed to Free School Meals for all children in primary school including breakfast and lunch, and holiday provision.
- There is currently Universal Infant Free School Meals for all children in Primary 1 to Primary 3.

- In England, there is Universal Infant Free School Meals for all children in Reception to year 2.

Quality of Free School Meals

8% of children say their school canteens are closed. Less than half report that school canteens are running as usual with social distancing.

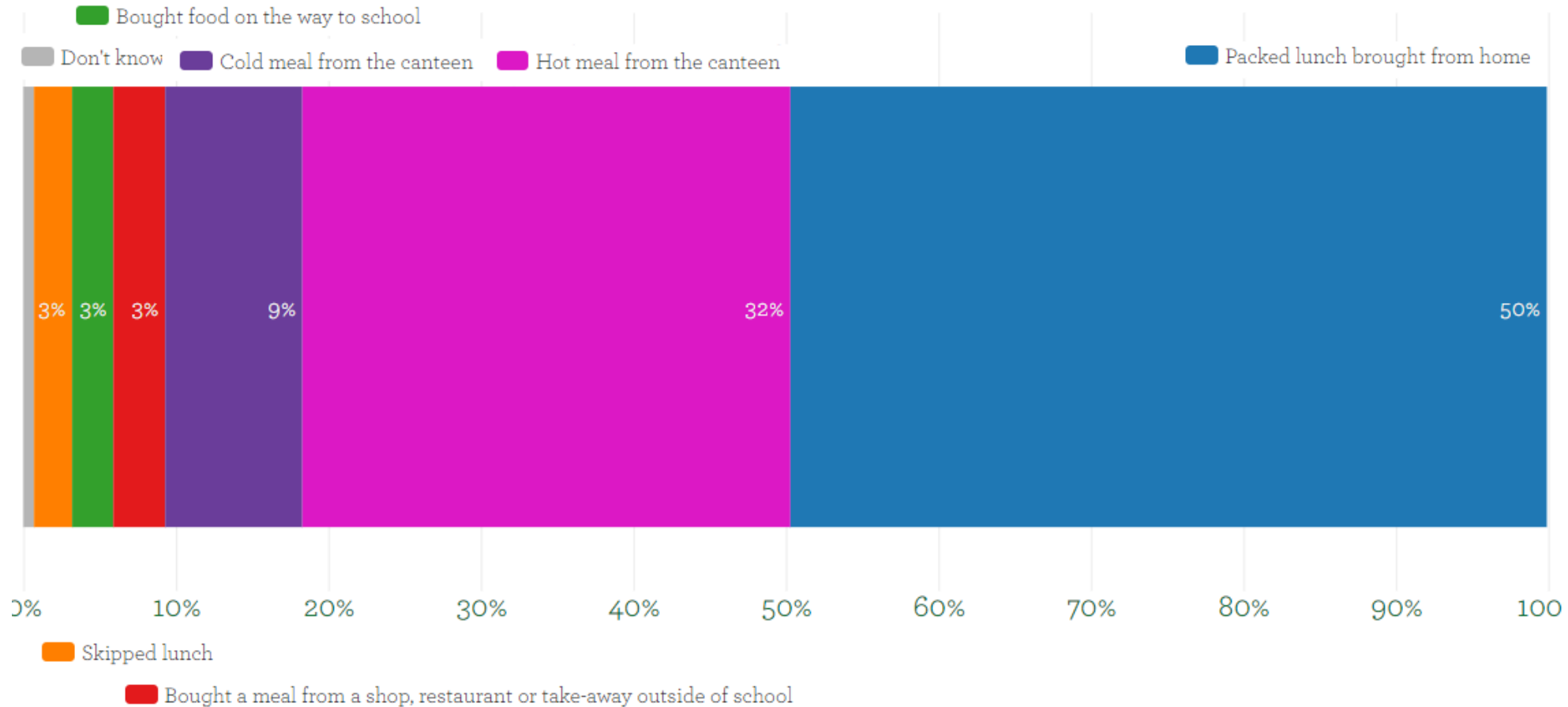


*not mutually exclusive



Quality of Free School Meals

50% of children said they ate a packed lunch the day before the survey. Only 32% had a hot meal from the canteen. 3% (180,000) skipped lunch entirely.





Quality of Free School Meals

60% of secondary schools are failing to comply with school food standards

Schools with a School Food Standards compliant food policy :



Children are being **over-served** in terms of **fat, salt & sugar** but are **underserved** **vegetables and fibre**

School meal funding has not risen in line with inflation, and **kitchen staff** are often **paid less than the Living Wage**



There's a bigger picture on children's food

Dev Sharma
Fayeth Jones
Savannah Ross
Asha Eva-Dodsworth
Jacob Kennedy
Tia Clarke
Jané Clarke
Aaron Ross
Janan Gill
Corey McPartland
Rabiya Hussain
Beth Rhodes
Arta Barone
Klaudia Welke

**CHILDREN'S
FOOD INQUIRY**

The logo features a pink circle containing a blue fork and a pink hand holding a spoon. The text "CHILDREN'S" is at the top and "#RIGHT2FOOD" is at the bottom.

Children's Minister

Ambassadors joined by Dame Emma Thompson to discuss the importance of healthy eating and activities

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From: [Department for Education](#) and [Vicky Ford MP](#)



It is vital to involve young people



Thank you

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the
Tudortrust



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Tackling poverty and inequality