

School Catering Survey

South Ayrshire Educational Services

Primary 4 to S6

Session 2017-18

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Secondary Schools	3
2.1. Secondary School Lunch Uptake	3
2.2. Young People’s Views of School Lunches	5
3. Primary Sector	7
3.1. Primary School Lunch Uptake	7
3.2. Children’s Views of School Lunches	8

1. Introduction

The School Catering Survey 2017-18 was completed by 3654 primary children (P4-P7) and 1268 young people in secondary schools (S1 to S6). This represents 81% of primary children (P4-P7) and 21% of secondary young people in schools.

Table 1. School Catering Survey Completions (no. and percentage of school roll)

Session	Primary		Secondary	
	No.	% P4 – P7	No.	% S1-S6
2016-17	3626	79	1594	26
2017-18	3654	81	1268	21

2. Secondary Schools

In 2017-18 the percentage of young people who never had a school lunch was similar across year stages (40-50%), compared to the previous year when a lower percentage of S5 and S6 young people did not have school lunches (24-34%).

A greater number of females have school lunches than males.

2.1. Secondary School Lunch Uptake

Table 2. Percentage young people having a school lunch by Year Stage 2016-17

No. School lunches per week	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	All Secondary
Everyday	16	12	20	13	24	24	16
3-4 days	11	11	9	11	13	21	11
1-2 days	17	18	12	10	26	10	16
Less than once	12	14	13	11	12	10	13
Never	44	44	45	55	24	34	43
No. Young People	471	505	288	151	112	67	1594

Table 3. Percentage young people having a school lunch by Year Stage 2017-18

No. School lunches per week	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	All Secondary
Everyday	16	18	10	20	22	21	17
3-4 days	14	8	9	8	8	12	9
1-2 days	17	17	16	10	12	16	15
Less than once	13	15	19	12	9	10	14
Never	41	42	47	51	49	41	45
No. Young People	219	350	254	224	130	91	1268

Table 4. Percentage young people having a school lunch by Gender

	Male		Female	
	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18
Everyday	13	11	20	22
3-4 days	9	6	13	13
1-2 days	15	13	17	17
Less than once	13	12	13	16
Never	49	58	38	33
No. Young People	762	610	832	658

2.2. Young People's Views of School Lunches

Overall, the catering service is viewed positively by young people (89%, 2017-18).

The cost of lunch (70%) and speed of service (71%) were least positively rated in 2016/17 and 2017/18.

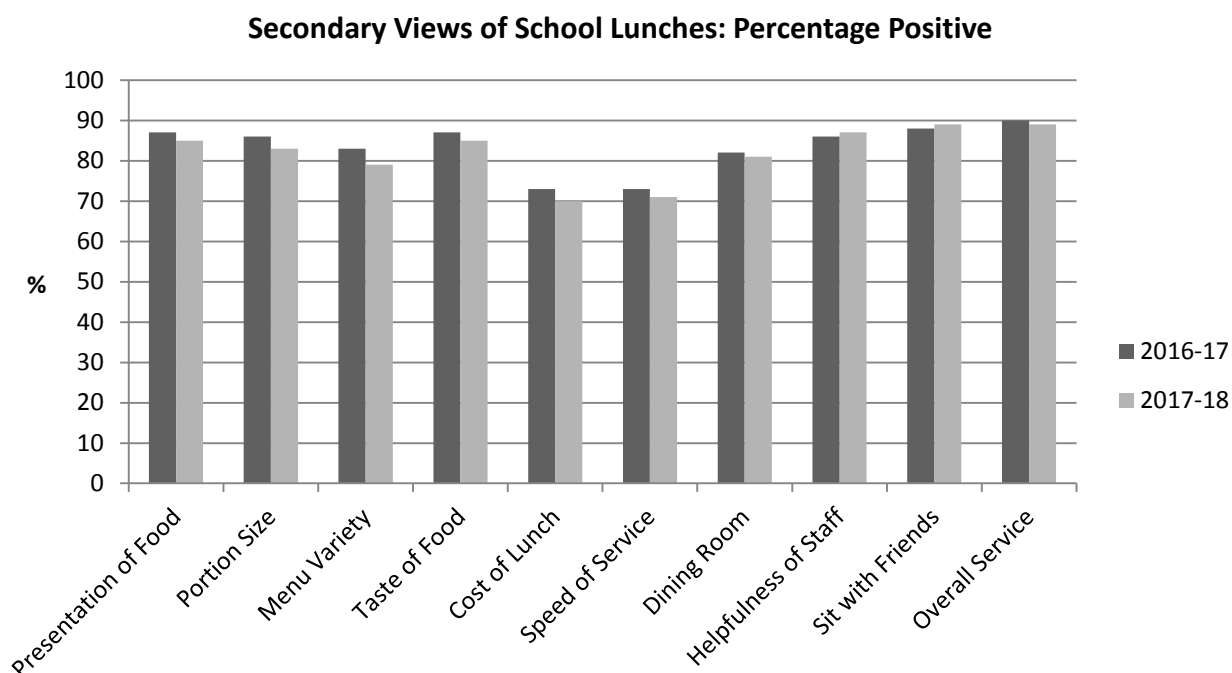


Table 5. Young People's Views of School Lunches: Percentage Agreement with Statements 2016-17

Statement	Very Good	Good	Okay	Total Positive	Poor	Total No. Responses
Presentation of Food	15	35	37	87	13	1322
Portion Size	20	40	26	86	14	1314
Menu Variety	17	33	33	83	17	1311
Taste of Food	22	37	28	87	13	1308
Cost of Lunch	13	26	34	73	27	1312
Speed of Service	13	27	33	73	27	1318
Dining Room	18	31	33	82	18	1316
Helpfulness of Staff	21	38	27	86	13	1293
Sit with Friends	35	33	20	88	13	1311
Overall Service	18	43	29	90	10	1304

Table 6. Young People's Views of School Lunches: Percentage Agreement with Statements 2017-18

Statement	Very Good	Good	Okay	Total Positive	Poor	Total No. Responses
Presentation of Food	12	35	38	85	15	949
Portion Size	16	38	29	83	17	952
Menu Variety	13	31	35	79	21	948
Taste of Food	19	36	30	85	15	924
Cost of Lunch	9	24	37	70	30	907
Speed of Service	12	24	35	71	28	942
Dining Room	14	33	34	81	19	945
Helpfulness of Staff	25	34	28	87	13	941
Sit with Friends	39	30	20	89	12	944
Overall Service	16	44	29	89	11	939

3. Primary Sector

3.1. Primary School Lunch Uptake

Uptake of school lunches is similar across year stages in Sessions 2016-17 and 2017-18, slightly fewer P4 children having lunch every day in 2017-18.

Uptake is similar for boys and girls.

Table 6. Percentage young people having a school lunch by Year Stage 2016-17

No. School lunches per week	P4	P5	P6	P7	All Primary
Everyday	37	35	32	35	35
3-4 days	11	11	11	11	11
1-2 days	18	21	24	21	21
Less than once	10	10	11	10	10
Never	25	23	22	22	23
No. Children	940	969	860	857	3626

Table 7. Percentage young people having a school lunch by Year Stage 2017-18

No. School lunches per week	P4	P5	P6	P7	All Primary
Everyday	29	31	31	33	31
3-4 days	12	11	12	9	11
1-2 days	19	16	18	19	18
Less than once	11	15	13	12	13
Never	30	27	26	27	28
No. Children	913	960	857	924	3654

Table 8. Percentage young people having a school lunch by Gender

	Male		Female	
	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18
Everyday	39	34	31	28
3-4 days	10	9	12	13
1-2 days	18	17	24	18
Less than once	10	11	11	14
Never	24	28	22	27
No. Young People	1792	1830	1834	1824

3.2. Children's Views of School Lunches

Children have very positive views of school lunches, in all areas. Speed of service and cost of lunch tend to be lower (but are above 80%) than other areas.

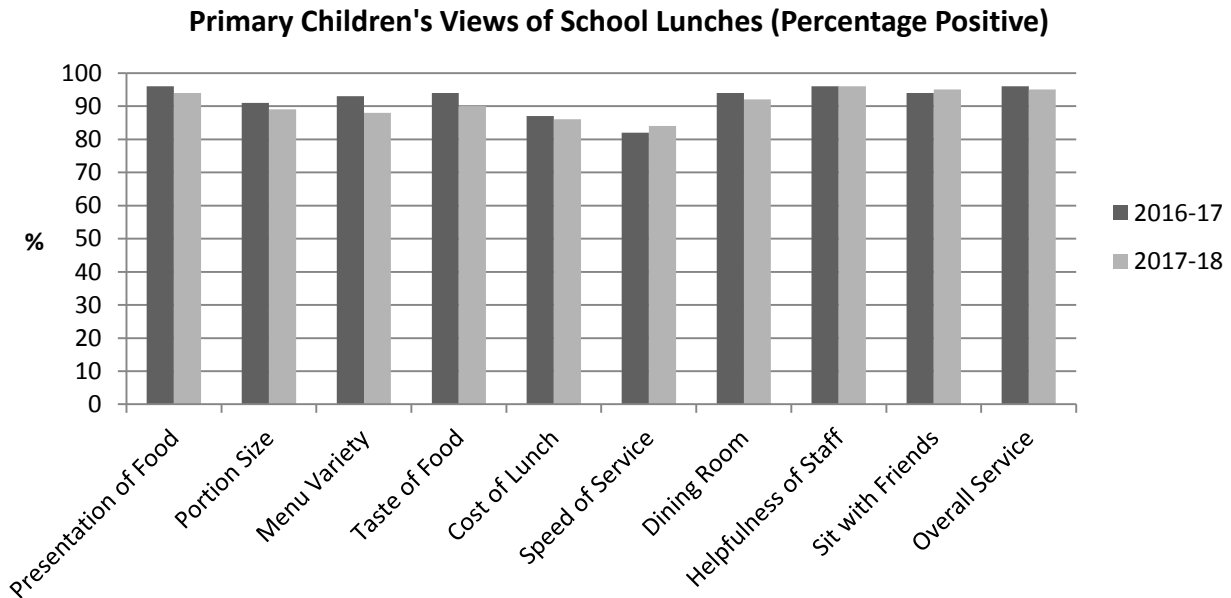


Table 9. Children's Views of School Lunches: Percentage Agreement with Statements 2016-17

Statement	Very Good	Good	Okay	Total Positive	Poor	Total No. Responses
Presentation of Food	36	34	26	96	5	3235
Portion Size	35	33	23	91	10	3222
Menu Variety	38	31	24	93	7	3208
Taste of Food	43	30	21	94	6	3200
Cost of Lunch	29	30	28	87	12	3179
Speed of Service	28	27	27	82	17	3215
Dining Room	39	35	20	94	5	3207
Helpfulness of Staff	54	29	13	96	4	3147
Sit with Friends	62	20	12	94	6	3213
Overall Service	46	34	16	96	4	3186

Table 10. Children's Views of School Lunches: Percentage Agreement with Statements 2017-18

Statement	Very Good	Good	Okay	Total Positive	Poor	Total No. Responses
Presentation of Food	29	36	29	94	7	3185
Portion Size	30	33	26	89	11	3178
Menu Variety	30	30	28	88	11	3148
Taste of Food	34	31	25	90	9	3116
Cost of Lunch	27	30	29	86	13	2980
Speed of Service	27	26	31	84	16	3154
Dining Room	41	31	20	92	9	3134
Helpfulness of Staff	54	28	14	96	4	3171
Sit with Friends	63	18	14	95	5	3193
Overall Service	43	34	18	95	5	3099

End