

GUIDANCE ON THE SCHOOL AND NURSERY MILK SCHEMES IN ENGLAND

INTRODUCTION

Milk is very healthy for growing children and many across England are already entitled to it through different schemes.

It contains the vitamins and minerals vital for good dental health, bone development, cognition and it also plays a key role in a healthy diet. The benefits of milk make providing it to children essential, particularly in light of increasing rates of childhood dental decay, obesity and hunger.

Encouraging children to drink milk regularly helps them to form a healthy habit when they are young and leads to them making healthier choices throughout their lives. School and nursery milk is a source of safe, healthy nutrition, regardless of their household income.



THE SCHEMES

The Nursery Milk Scheme

The Nursery Milk Scheme is operated by the Nursery Milk Reimbursement Unit (NMRU) on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Care. It entitles children under 5 years who attend approved day care facilities to receive 189ml (1/3 pint) of milk each day, **free of charge**.

For more information on how to register your setting for the scheme, visit nurserymilk.co.uk.

The School Milk Subsidy Scheme

All children in UK schools aged 5-11 are eligible to receive subsidised milk through the School Milk Subsidy Scheme. The costs per child varies depends on where you are in the UK, but it will cost on average £14 per term to receive subsidised milk under the scheme.

Information on the scheme, including eligibility, how to apply and how to claim, can be found [here](#).



ABOUT THE SCHOOL AND NURSERY MILK ALLIANCE

We are a coalition of organisations from the early years, education, health, and dairy sectors who are committed to promoting the benefits to children's physical and dental health and wellbeing that arise from drinking milk in learning environments.

The overarching aim of the Alliance is to ensure that providing all nursery age and young school children with free and subsidised milk during the school day remains a priority for public policy in the UK.

We aim to ensure that children receive all the benefits that drinking milk in a school or early years setting provides, including: essential nutrients for a growing child, opportunities to develop social skills and encouraging lifelong healthy living habits.

Providing young children with access to milk can help reduce their consumption of unhealthy soft drinks and can also serve as an early intervention to promote positive health outcomes for young people at a time when the pressures on the National Health Service are continually growing.

Dr Hilary Jones

GP and Medical Broadcaster, Dr Hilary Jones, is the spokesperson for the School and Nursery Milk Alliance.

"School milk sets children up not just for the day but for life. It contains numerous vital vitamins and essential fats and protein that children need to help them grow and be ready to learn. School milk is one of the best hydrating drinks for refuelling and supports their brain functions – including concentration, memory and creativity, so they're ready to learn again in the classroom."

Contact Us

For further information please contact snma@snma.org.uk or follow us on Twitter: @SchoolMilkAll

