

HISTORY OF SCHOOL MEALS IN SCOTLAND

1872 - 2015

The Education (Provision of Meals) Bill was passed in 1906. This law allowed local authorities to provide free school meals to children who needed them.

1906

From 1980 it was not compulsory for schools to provide free milk to pupils.

1980

The Schools (Health Promotion & Nutrition) (Scotland) Act 2007 brought together the achievements of Hungry for Success with new nutritional standards.

2007

School meals have been part of school life since 1872. This was when a law was passed to give all children an education.

1872

The First World War began in 1914. Around 14 million school dinners were served in British schools. Dishes included toad in the hole, mutton stew, fish pie and baked raisin pudding.

1914

In 1988, school meals became subject to "Compulsory Competitive Tendering" making local authorities open the provision of school meals to market testing. This led to increased use of pre-prepared and processed food and also reduced skills in catering staff.

1988

"Better Eating, Better Learning- A New Context for School Food" is launched in this year. This looked at making further improvements in school food and food education.

2014

In 1908 the Education (Scotland) Act was introduced.

1908

The Social Security Act 1986 removed the entitlement to free meals for thousands of children. However this was later improved in 2003 and 2009 with the entitlement being extend to a larger number of children whose parents were entitled to welfare benefits.

1986

In 2010 the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence recognised how important it was to have quality, healthy food in schools.

2010

In 1880 there were fears over the health of young people entering the armed forces. During the Boer War, 60-75% of new soldiers were rejected for being unfit. The minimum height of soldiers had been 5 feet 6 inches but this was reduced to 5 feet. The government recognised the need for a healthy population, starting with healthy children.

1880

By 1945 school meals were described as having "a vital place in national policy for nutrition and well-being of children" and became a key part of the creation of the welfare state.

1945

"Hungry for Success - A Whole School Approach to School Meals in Scotland" was introduced to improve the nutrition, quality and uptake of school meals.

2003

Today there are over 53million school meals served every year in just under 2,700 schools in Scotland.

2015