

Freedom of Information – Response – 27087

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information.

Please confirm whether schools under your jurisdiction are required to operate a policy of auto-enrolment for Free School Meals for eligible pupils.

No

If such a policy is in place, please provide:

- 1. The date on which the policy was introduced;*
- 2. The rationale for introducing the policy;*
- 3. The number of pupils who were eligible for Free School Meals but who were not enrolled, prior to the policy being introduced;*
- 4. The total number of additional Pupil Premium allocations that the schools will receive because of the policy, as well as the total monetary value of such allocations;*
- 5. Any other relevant benefits of this policy to pupils, parents, and/or school staff, if applicable.*

N/A

If no such policy is in place, please provide:

- 1. Any considerations of this policy that have taken place;*

Discussions around an “opt-out, auto-award” approach have been ongoing for approximately 2.5 years within SCC. This has involved attendance at meetings and discussions with colleagues in:

- Public Health Directorate
- Suffolk Office of Data and Analytics (SODA)
- Bremner & Co
- FixOurFood programme
- other local authorities
- Local Government Association.

Until last year no two-tier authority had successfully implemented an ‘auto-enrolment’ policy.

Now this has been achieved successfully in areas of the UK, such as Devon, SCC is actively reviewing the options for moving forward with this initiative alongside Public Health colleagues to support and benefit low-income families and schools in Suffolk.

- 2. The number of pupils in your jurisdiction who are eligible for Free School Meals but who are not enrolled;*

Unknown at this time.

- 3. The estimated number of additional Pupil Premium allocations that the schools would receive if this policy were to be implemented, as well as the estimated total monetary value of such allocations;*

Unknown at this time

- 4. Any future date on which this policy will be introduced, if applicable.*

Unknown at this time but current aim is for September / October 2026.

