



CPAG Lived Experience Evaluation

CPAG's lived experience evaluation will run throughout the 2023/24 academic year. The focus will be on qualitative research with pupils, families, and school staff in 12 schools across five London boroughs (2-3 schools per borough). It will also include some supplementary research with families in community settings and with their London Family Panel.

In each school, CPAG will carry out focus groups and lunchtime observations with pupils, interviews and surveys with parents and carers, and interviews with school staff. This research will take place over a 1.5-week period by a CPAG Research Practitioner. Through these methods, CPAG will work to understand from pupil and family perspectives, what the impact of the UPFSM policy has been on family budgets, pupil and family health and wellbeing and school life. CPAG will also investigate what the enablers and barriers are for different groups of families in taking up and enjoying universal school food provision.

For participating boroughs, CPAG would welcome the chance to consult with boroughs on their school selection process and feedback any findings they have gathered from schools in your area. Beyond this there are no other fixed requirements for boroughs relating to this evaluation.

ICF's Implementation Evaluation

ICF are leading the Implementation Evaluation component of the London Universal Primary FSM Policy. Their mixed methods study during the academic year 2023/24 will explore the implementation mechanisms. ICF will be mailing out a short online survey link to schools in November. During March to May, they will be visiting a sample of schools to explore implementation issues.

EEF & UCL Impact Evaluation

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has commissioned University College London (UCL) to conduct an impact evaluation (expected 2025) focusing on a range of outcome measures including pupil attainment and attendance (using the National Pupil Database; NPD), behaviour, attention, wellbeing, and household financial distress (using the Understanding Society household panel survey; USoc) and BMI (in the National Child Measurement Programme data; NCMP). They will combine this with an implementation and process evaluation – involving analysis of school meal uptake data, surveys of headteachers and parents/carers, and interviews and focus groups with headteachers, teachers, parents and pupils – to explore perceived impacts of universal free school meal provision at school and household level.