

Food and Drink purchased 'Through the School Gate'

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Transcript

School 1 focus group year 9

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Respondent: Do we miss this period and next period or just this period?

Interviewer2: Probably just this one but we'll see how quickly we can get through the stuff.

Respondent: I want to miss the next period.

Interviewer1: Thank you everyone for coming back this week, instead of last week. So that was really interesting to look through some of the things that you were talking about in the questionnaire. Today we're going to be expanding some of the things that we asked and hearing your thoughts and opinions. It's important for you guys to know there's no right or wrong answer and we're really just interested to hear what you think. Everything you say won't go beyond us and beyond this room, so your teachers won't find out, your parents won't find out, anything like that, we're just really interested to hear your thoughts and experiences and what you think.

So the first thing we're just going to talk about is your school food environment, so where you eat your lunch, so in your canteen. What do you think of the canteen?

Respondent: What as an area?

Interviewer1: Yeah, do you like it?

Respondent: It's pretty small.

Respondent: Yeah, yeah. But the tables are sometimes like bunched together.

Interviewer1: Yeah?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer1: Is there enough space in there for you all to eat?

Respondent: No.

Respondent: Most of the time.

Respondent: Yeah, most of the time.

Interviewer2: I'm just capturing things that you're saying for our discussion.

Interviewer1: Do you sometimes find there's nowhere to sit if you get to lunch late?

Respondents: [All agree 0:01:29].

Respondent: There are places to sit it's just that you just want to sit next to the girls.

Interviewer1: I can sympathise. So we've kind of observed the systems around your lunchtime, so you have to queue outside, then queue inside and get a little token.

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: That's so slow.

Respondent: That is so slow.

Respondent: I don't see what the point of tokens are, you're just going to get like stuff.

Interviewer1: So does that happen in both, so if you get hot or cold lunches?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: And what do you think of that system?

Respondent: Dumb.

Respondent: Dumb.

Respondent: Stupid.

Interviewer1: Dumb, stupid, okay.

Respondent: Useless.

Interviewer1: What would you do differently? How would you rather have it?

Respondent: A ticket.

Respondent: No, no, no, whenever you want lunch just go and get it.

Respondent: Does that make sense?

Respondent: No, because then everyone will get lunch at the same time.

Respondent: No, a ticket, a ticket.

Interviewer1: A ticket, so like when you go to the supermarket and you get a ticket at the counters? And does everyone get to go to lunch at the same time?

Respondent: No.

Respondent: No. You're let in year group by year group.

Respondent: No we don't, no we don't.

Respondent: We used to do that [overspeaking 0:02:28].

Respondent: It depends where you line up.

Interviewer1: So does it depend where your lesson is how quickly you can get to lunch?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah, in the line and get a token.

Respondent: It depends who is teaching you as well.

Interviewer1: Yeah, so do some of them keep going beyond the lunch bell?

Respondent: Hold you back.

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer1: So it's a nice big open plan canteen, it's kind of in the centre of your school isn't it?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer1: After you've eaten in there do you go and play outside? Do you stay at the tables? Can you go back to your classrooms?

Respondent: We go outside.

Respondent: We have to go outside.

Respondent: We go outside. We have to.

Interviewer1: Even when it's wet?

Respondent: Yeah. There's wet [inaudible 0:03:03].

Respondent: When it's wet we go into the sports hall.

Interviewer1: Right, okay.

So now we're going to just talk about who buys their lunch in school,
so who buys a hot lunch?

Interviewer2: That's one, two, three, four, five, six, seven. That's seven here.

Interviewer1: And is that something you do every day? Do you always buy a hot
lunch?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Not every day.

Respondent: Not every day.

Respondent: Sometimes...

Respondent: If the queue is a bit too long then...

Respondent: No, you go at the end of lunch, that's where queues just disappear.

Respondent: Yeah I know.

Respondent: But then you have to rush your food when you eat.

Interviewer1: Is there always food left at the end?

Respondent: Yes.

Respondent: No.

Respondent: Yes, yes, sometimes.

Respondent: Most of the times.

Respondent: Sometimes there is no food.

Respondent: Last time I didn't even pay £2 just for wedges.

Respondent: By the time I got to the thing they said 'Oh the chicken has all finished', so all I had was gravy and potatoes.

Respondent: Yeah, last time they gave us two potatoes with gravy.

Respondent: Yeah, two potatoes with gravy.

Interviewer1: Guys can we all listen to what everyone is saying because everyone's got things they want to say.

Respondent: I find that if you're not in the line by at least five minutes but you still want to get lunch you're usually like getting rushed to eat your food because there is no time, because the lunches are too short.

Interviewer1: Yes, it's 40 minutes your lunch break isn't it?

Respondent: Yeah. So I got in the line, like I got held back, my class got held back for like five minutes, and it was not even that long but by the time I got to the line it was like really long and it took ages to get my food, and by the time I got my food there's like five minutes left of lunch.

Interviewer1: So you've got to like eat quick?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer1: So those of you that don't buy your lunch at school do you bring a packed lunch with you?

Respondent: Nah.

Respondent: Nah.

Respondent: Nope.

Interviewer1: So if you don't buy lunch at school you don't have lunch or...?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: I just get [inaudible 0:04:48] from the reception.

Interviewer1: So are there some days where you don't have lunch?

Respondent: No.

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer1: And is that because the queue is too long or you don't feel like eating or...?

Respondent: The queue is too long.

Respondent: The queue is too long.

Respondent: I can't be bothered.

Respondent: Especially when it's cold, you don't want to stand outside for like 20 minutes just to get food.

Interviewer: So if you could have it your way you would try and queue inside if you could?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer1: Especially on days like this.

Respondent: Like in the sports hall.

Interviewer1: Yeah, okay. And those of you who do buy lunch in school when you do have lunch what sort of things do you buy? So we've looked a little bit at the menus we saw last week, what sort of things do you buy? Do you buy the hot meal, jacket potato, sandwiches?

Respondent: The hot meal.

Respondent: The hot meal.

Respondent: Hot meal.

Respondent: Sandwiches [inaudible 0:05:35].

Respondent: Because most of the time it's a really cold day so...so you've got to stay warm.

Respondent: Our sandwiches are better.

Respondent: Jacket potatoes there's nothing nice.

Interviewer1: So we saw on the menu the meal deal that you can get?

Respondent: What's that?

Interviewer1: So you get the soup and then the main meal and then putting. Do you often get the meal deal or do you just buy...?

Respondent: The soups are horrible, even the teachers say that.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer1: Really?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer1: So you don't get the soup?

Respondent: Nah.

Respondent: The people that cook it don't like them, they don't even like it themselves.

Respondent: Why give it to us?

Interviewer1: So you buy just usually the main meal?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: And dessert.

Respondent: And dessert.

Respondent: Yeah, and dessert.

Interviewer1: What do you think of the main meal, do you like it?

Respondent: No.

Interviewer1: Is it tasty?

Respondent: Sometimes it's all right but sometimes...

Respondent: The chicken is always dry. It's like they broke for sauce.

Respondent: They repeat the food too much, we always have like the same thing like every week but on different days.

Respondent: No, no, the rice is even worse. Yesterday the rice tasted like it had water in it.

Interviewer1: Okay. And you'd prefer a bit more variety?

Respondent: Yeah. So I could say like not including the vegetarian meals there's like only 10 different kind of meals they give us every different week on different days.

Respondent: [inaudible 0:06:35] like it's chewing on plastic.

Interviewer: So you would want a bit more choice?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: So you would have something different?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer2: Something that we asked a bit about in the questionnaire and some of you had some really interesting things to say was what do you think about free school meals?

Respondent: That's fair, it's very fair.

Interviewer2: Yeah? You think it's a good system?

Respondent: Yes.

Respondent: Because you know like the parents that don't work and have like...don't have the resources to support their child's lunch, like the school...the government can just pay for them.

Interviewer2: Yeah, so you think it's a really good system?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer2: What do others think?

Respondent: Same.

Respondent: Like brunch should be free for anyone anyways.

Interviewer2: You think brunch should be as well?

Respondent: Yeah, brunch should be free for everyone.

Interviewer2: I think that's one of the things that someone said is that you can get lunch but you can't get brunch as well if you're on free school meals because you aren't given enough.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer2: Is that right?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah, that's true.

Respondent: If they're going to make you pay for lunch you might as well make brunch free.

Respondent: It also kind of takes longer as well because when you're in the line-up outside it usually takes long because they're waiting for the line to go down a bit, but the fingerprint scanner, not everyone is able to do it so they have to like write your name and then put it on the thing and it just takes even longer.

Interviewer2: And is that because some people don't have access to online banking that they can't do the fingerprint or...?

Respondent: No, sometimes it just doesn't work when you put your finger on it...

Respondent: It doesn't work.

Respondent: ...and it just takes too long.

Interviewer2: So if you're in the queue can you tell who is getting free school meals or is it completely anonymous?

Respondent: No.

Respondent: Anonymous.

Interviewer2: And do you like that part of it?

Respondent: No.

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: I don't know.

Interviewer: So that no one knows, everyone is just buying a meal?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah. Yeah, it's good because then they might get violated. That's what he says.

Respondent: What's that?

Interviewer2: Well sometimes there's a bit of stigma around it isn't there?

So does anyone have anything else to say about free school meals?
You think it's a good system? Is there enough money? Do they give you enough money for free school meals in order to allow you to eat what you like?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: But I don't know.

Interviewer1: Do you know how much they give you?

Respondent: No, you just get...you don't see how much everyone has got.

Respondent: Nope.

Respondent: It doesn't say how much.

Respondent: So I don't think...I don't know...

Respondent: It just says [inaudible 0:08:50] free, that's it.

Respondent: Like you can just buy lunch...

Respondent: No, you can check, you have to put a finger on it don't you?

Respondent: No, but you've got no money on it then.

Interviewer2: So it seems to be a good system, you can eat what you like regardless of how you pay for it? Is that what we can agree on?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer2: Okay, great. I like this point here, it should be for everyone or no one, do you think everyone should be entitled to have a free school meal?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yes, once, at least once.

Interviewer2: At least once a week or at least once...?

Respondent: No like once...

Respondent: Once a week.

Respondent: Like at least once in their whole school lifetime.

Respondent: Why?

Respondent: Do you know how lovely that would be? Like lunch for free.

Interviewer1: But what do you mean by once? So one day in the whole time you're in school or every day whilst you're in school?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Well not every day.

Respondent: Not every day, that's too much.

Interviewer1: [overspeaking 0:09:41] to see who of you thinks should be entitled to a free meal every single day?

Respondent: Maybe like once a month.

Interviewer1: Once a month and then after that it has to be paid.

Respondent: Because if it's every day the school is going to be losing money, because they have to buy the ingredients to make the food.

Respondent: The government pays.

Respondent: What's the money if you do the sums.

Respondent: Yeah, that's pretty true.

Interviewer2: We've kind of touched upon this little bit already actually, what do you think of the food and drinks available in your school? So we've said the soups are horrible, sometimes the food is nice, what other things...?

Respondent: They should give like orange juice and that.

Respondent: The rice is nice.

Respondent: Apple juice, yeah.

Interviewer2: I didn't see much drink, is it just water?

Respondent: They've got no drinks.

Respondent: Just water.

Respondent: It's water.

Respondent: It's just water, that's not right.

Respondent: They don't even have cups, they don't have cups.

Interviewer2: So you have to bring your own bottle in do you?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: You can't even get flavoured water.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer2: And has that always been the case?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Occasionally people with packed lunch they can bring like a carton of apple juice or orange juice but like I don't even know if you still get in trouble for just bringing that or not.

Interviewer2: Really? Okay. So they're just trying to encourage everyone to drink water. We saw jugs of water on the sides in the canteen.

Respondent: They're dirty.

Respondent: There's no cups though so what's the point?

Respondent: There's a big difference between like...it's like going back to primary school, and secondary school is a big difference because in primary

school there's more variety of food, whereas like in secondary school you've got like basically like two main meals, vegetarian and non-vegetarian, and then you've just got like the jacket potato and like three desserts if you're lucky, three different desserts.

Interviewer2: So again like what we said about before about it would be really nice if there was more variety. So you go from primary school where you have lots of choice to coming here where you don't really have much choice at all and they kind of keep cycling the same menu.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer2: And would you like it if they served different drinks? If you could buy...?

Respondent: Yes.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer2: What kind of drinks would you like them to sell?

Respondent: Orange juice, apple juice, just for the colour.

Respondent: Mango juice.

Respondent: Coke.

Respondent: Coke. Now that's a squash.

Respondent: Like even if it was just like...even if you had to pay for the drink like 50p or £1, that's okay.

Respondent: Nah, sparkling Rubicon, that's [inaudible 0:11:45].

Interviewer2: What's sparkling Rubicon?

Respondent: You know how there's normal Rubicon but it's sparkling.

Respondent: Just branded juice but then it's a sparkling one, it's almost like a Lilt kind of similar thing in a way.

Interviewer2: Okay, so you'd like fizzy drinks?

Respondent: I like that.

Respondent: Yeah, [inaudible 0:12:02].

Interviewer2: Because there's no vending machines or anything are there? There's no access to other drinks at all.

Respondent: That's true. We should get vending machines.

Interviewer2: Do you have water fountains throughout the school?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah, they're dirty.

Respondent: They are dirty.

Interviewer2: So you tend not to use them?

Respondent: No.

Interviewer2: Do you drink during the day? Do you drink water or...?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Every time you turn the fountain on it falls on the floor and it splashes over your clothes.

Interviewer2: So you do drink during the day?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer1: So if you don't use the water fountains and there's no cups to use the jugs of water how do you drink during the day? Are you allowed to bring bottled water in with you?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer1: And then do you fill them up with the fountain?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Sometimes.

Interviewer1: And do you buy water from the canteen then as well?

Respondent: You're not allowed to, you can't buy...

Respondent: You can't buy water, so they don't even sell bottled water.

Respondent: You have to like go shop before school or something. I spend £3 a week on water.

Respondent: Wow.

Respondent: That's a stretch, £3 a week on water.

Respondent: That's probably because you get Smartwater, like what's the difference between Smartwater and...?

Respondent: Well what do you want me to get? This one that is like that big for 50p? Water is always the same price, 50p or 60p, you haven't got a choice.

Interviewer2: So where in school do you eat your lunch? Do you all eat in the canteen?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: No.

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: If there's football sometimes I get a wrap and I eat [inaudible 0:13:16].

Interviewer1: Are you allowed to take food outside to eat then?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: No. No we're not, but I just do it anyway.

Interviewer1: No, but you just secretly do it [inaudible 0:13:23].

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Teachers can eat in their classrooms though.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer1: So is the rule that you have to eat in the canteen, you can't eat anywhere else?

Respondent: Yep.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer1: Okay, even if you've got...

Respondent: You can't even like...say like you have like...occasionally some people go outside with an apple or something, but say like they have flapjacks at brunch, you can't actually like physically like leave anywhere inside the building if you've still got the food.

Interviewer1: To go out. Does that annoy you?

Respondent: Yes.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer1: Would you like it if you could take your food outside to eat outside?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer1: When it's not raining.

Respondent: Yeah. I can see why they don't let you though because you'd probably make a mess.

Interviewer2: Who do you eat your lunch with? When you eat in the canteen who are you eating with?

Respondent: Everybody. Someone.

Respondent: Friend.

Respondent: Who do you think? Who do you think?

Respondent: Like it will be a mix because you can't always find a full table for like your whole friends to sit on.

Interviewer2: And is it the same group of friends that you eat with every day if you can?

Respondent: Yep.

Respondent: Mmm.

Interviewer2: And do you try and sit on the same table every day or is it...?

Respondent: No, a different table.

Respondent: Yeah, well I do.

Respondent: I do.

Respondent: Because you get like the area...in the area where we eat there's like...no one follows the rule any more but when we were in like year 7 and like early year 8 there was like a line on the floor and they'd separate you for the packed lunches, but now we kind of just like go everywhere.

Interviewer2: So packed lunch, you can eat where you like if you've got a packed lunch as well?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer2: And do you usually buy the same food as your friends?

Respondent: No.

Respondent: No.

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: No? That doesn't influence you at all, you buy what you want and then...?

Respondent: There's not even a choice, so you can't buy what you want, it's only one thing or two things.

Interviewer2: So do you bring money with you to school?

Respondent: Yes.

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer2: So with your electronic system that money is put on by your parents is it?

Respondent: Yes.

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Online.

Interviewer2: So you bring extra money with you?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer2: And what's that for?

Respondent: You know like if you don't have any money in your account you have to go to the...what's that...?

Respondent: Finance.

Respondent: The finance office and get like a green slip and then 'cos like you give them...because lunch is £2 so they give you a green slip and then you get lunch, but then you have to pay them £2.

Interviewer2: Okay, so they do allow you...if you've not got any money in your account they do still allow you to eat?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer2: But you'd have to pay it back? Can you pay with money at the canteen or is it just...?

Respondent: No, not at the canteen, [inaudible 0:15:49].

Interviewer2: So you have to go up to the finance office?

Respondent: Yeah, the reception.

Interviewer2: So the rest of this, this money that you bring with you is that for buying food before school or after school or...?

Respondent: Both.

Respondent: Both.

Respondent: After school, mainly after school though. The place, McDonald's.

Interviewer2: Where do you go after school?

Respondent: I go KFC.

Respondent: Okay, yeah, that's good. We go to a special place.

Interviewer1: A special place?

Respondent: McDonald's.

Respondent: It's called Nando's.

Interviewer1: You go Nando's?

Respondent: Oh Nando's after school would be heaven.

Interviewer1: It would be heaven or it is? So you guys...you don't go but you'd like to go?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: The thing is some of our teachers, you know like when you get the senior members of staff, oh Jesus, I went to McDonald's after school once and Miss Marshall, she was in there...

Respondent: They track you down.

Respondent: ...and I was freaking out in the line because she was watching me and I'm just like 'Nah, I'm going...'

Respondent: They check you in the toilet as well.

Interviewer1: Are they trying to encourage you not to go in there?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yes.

Respondent: Yeah, they track you down and they just hunt you.

Respondent: By far.

Interviewer1: Do they ask you to leave if you're there?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yes, but I was already...

Respondent: Yeah, in the shop, so if you're in the shop they'll ask you to leave or they'll just take your stuff off you.

Respondent: I was already in the queue once and she was like 'Oh, in future don't come here.'

Respondent: After school and before school.

Interviewer1: Okay, so they're trying to prevent you from going into these takeaway places and fast food restaurants?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: But it's our money so you don't really get the choice.

Respondent: I think it's more to do with the fact that you're wearing the uniform and they want a good reputation, because that's all they go on about.

Respondent: We've already got a rubbish repu...

Interviewer1: So you do go into the shops but do you just kind of keep an eye on where the teachers are or...?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer1: Are there some places that you know you go that the teachers won't go?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer1: Where are they? Are they near school or a bit further away?

Respondent: A bit far.

Respondent: Delish Delights.

Interviewer1: Delish Delights? Where is that? What's that?

Respondent: Damn good doughnuts.

Respondent: It's a cake shop.

Interviewer2: Oh is that with the green banner?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer2: Okay, the bakery, I think we've got a picture of it.

Interviewer1: Oh okay, did we go past there?

Interviewer2: The bakery. So the teachers go to the bakery?

Respondent: They go past the bakery because no one really goes in there. I do sometimes.

Respondent: No one goes there.

Respondent: If there's a teacher in McDonald's I'll got to Delish.

Interviewer1: Do some of you go a bit further away from school to go and get food?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: No.

Respondent: I do.

Respondent: Oh definitely, definitely.

Interviewer1: And so we're talking you want to go and have things like chicken and chips and you want a burger?

Respondent: No, no, not chicken and chips.

Respondent: No, no.

Respondent: No. Sometimes we just chill there.

Respondent: That's a stretch.

Respondent: We just go to chill.

Interviewer1: Sometimes you go in just to be together but outside of school?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: So I usually go to like the places like that after school if I haven't had lunch. Like yesterday, yesterday I went to McDonald's because I was on a trip and the packed lunches they give you from the school are like not that much, so I was like really hungry.

Interviewer1: Okay, so that's another thing to talk about. Do you go and have food after school because you're hungry or to socialise or both?

Respondent: Hungry.

Respondent: Sometimes a bit of them.

Respondent: Sometimes we just don't go eat, we just stay there.

Respondent: Just stay there.

Respondent: It's more of both I think.

Interviewer1: Because you're not hungry or because you haven't got money to buy food?

Respondent: Because we're not hungry.

Respondent: Not hungry.

Interviewer1: Because you're not hungry. Is that because you're full up from your school lunch?

Respondent: No.

Respondent: No.

Respondent: Sometimes we're just not hungry.

Respondent: No, we're just not hungry.

Interviewer1: Sometimes you're just not hungry.

Interviewer2: Okay, so if you don't eat your...do you sometimes not eat your school lunch so that you can have food after school?

Respondent: Oh yeah, sometimes.

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: I never...

Respondent: Nah, I never...

Respondent: I do that sometimes so I can eat at home.

Respondent: I'm one that don't eat breakfast so I usually get brunch and then I get lunch. But if I don't get lunch I'll eat after school [inaudible 0:19:19].

Interviewer2: Okay, we've started to talk about this but we'll talk about it a bit more. So who actually does buy food outside of school during the day, so before school or after school?

Respondent: I do.

Respondent: I do.

Respondent: After school.

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer2: Every day?

Respondent: No, sometimes.

Respondent: Most days.

Respondent: I'd say like three to four days in a week.

Interviewer2: And if we look at before school what sort of things do you buy before school?

Respondent: Nothing.

Respondent: Nothing.

Respondent: Water.

Interviewer2: Water?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer2: Does anyone buy any other drinks before school that they keep in their bag?

Respondent: No.

Respondent: No.

Respondent: We're not allowed.

Respondent: Rarely.

Respondent: It's not like you're not allowed, it's just that the school teachers will...

Interviewer1: Yeah. Or what you drink before you come in. So yes, you're not allowed to bring other drinks into school, but before on your way to school do you buy something and eat it or drink it before you come to school?

Respondent: I just get Weetabix.

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Sometimes.

Respondent: Weetabix. You get Weetabix, what does that say?

Respondent: It's Weetabix.

Respondent: Oh the drinks?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Oh the breakfast drinks.

Interviewer1: And what about energy drinks, [overspeaking 0:20:28], do you buy energy drinks before school?

Respondent: No.

Respondent: Rarely.

Respondent: I don't know how people do that, that's disgusting, how do you drink energy drinks before school?

Respondent: No, that's nasty.

Interviewer1: So what we're saying is before school generally you don't buy much but what you buy after school is completely different to what you buy before school?

Respondent: Oh yeah.

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer1: So do you have more of a meal after school or is it snacks?

Respondent: Yes.

Respondent: A banquet.

Respondent: More of a meal.

Interviewer1: More of a meal?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer1: Okay.

Respondent: Oh I've just realised like there was nothing on the board but now there's loads.

Respondent: I've been busy. Ignore my handwriting, it's awful, it's always been like that.

Interviewer2: So we talked a little bit about it but where do you buy food from outside of school?

Respondent: Oh Besties.

Respondent: Oh my days.

Respondent: We even get the best shop.

Interviewer2: What's the best shop?

Respondent: Eagles.

Interviewer2: Where is that?

Respondent: There.

Interviewer2: Is that up there?

Respondent: No it's not up there.

Interviewer2: These were just the few that we saw, so do you shop in any of these places up here?

Respondent: Deepak.

Respondent: Deepak Patel.

Respondent: Deepak Patel.

Respondent: Deepak Patel is sweet.

Respondent: The bottom, the bottom three.

Interviewer1: The bottom three. So Tesco, KFC and McDonald's?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Are the main ones everyone really goes to.

Respondent: And Besties, Besties.

Respondent: Yeah, sometimes Besties [inaudible 0:21:36].

Respondent: Nah, Besties has gone expensive.

Interviewer1: Is that because they do the food you like or it's a good price?

Respondent: I feel like Besties is way too close to where all the teachers seem to be, so it's more risky.

Respondent: Yeah. Like Mr Wilson stays there all the time.

Respondent: And because it's so small they can see just by looking through the window.

Interviewer1: So you go to some of the other places because they're a bit bigger?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer1: And you can kind of blend in? Okay, and what about the prices, does that kind of influence where you go?

Respondent: Well it's cheap.

Interviewer1: It's cheap?

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer1: How much is it?

Respondent: A pound.

Respondent: It depends what you're buying. So average, like when I say like maximum or minimum I don't really know the difference. Like £3.

Interviewer1: Okay, so you would happily spend £3 after school on food?

Respondent: Yep.

Respondent: I would.

Interviewer1: And what sort of things is that?

Respondent: Pizza.

Interviewer1: Pizza?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Pizza for £3? Bargain.

Respondent: You can get it in Celtic Avenue, Celtic Avenue.

Interviewer1: Where are you getting this pizza from?

Respondent: Celtic Avenue.

Interviewer1: So is that a special after school deal or...?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Some shops if you're wearing a school uniform, you know how one piece of chicken and chips is like £1.40, they make it £1 if you're like...

Interviewer1: So there's some places give you a discount because you're in school uniform?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Seriously?

Interviewer1: Any of the places on there?

Respondent: Yeah sometimes on the...

Interviewer1: Which one?

Respondent: The pizza or something.

Interviewer1: The pizza one?

Respondent: Top Pizzas.

Interviewer2: Okay, [overspeaking 0:22:52]. So they give you a discount if you're in your school uniform do they?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Usually I go McDonald's.

Respondent: Chicken and chips for £1.

Respondent: Oh I've been to that sweetshop in the top left as well.

Interviewer2: Okay, so that's interesting, so does that encourage you to go back there again because [overspeaking 0:23:01]?

Respondent: Nah, no, [inaudible 0:23:04].

Respondent: [inaudible 0:23:02] 12.

Respondent: George, George, you can't use that token, you have to be 16 and over.

Interviewer2: So after school do you usually go to the same places?

Respondent: I don't matter.

Respondent: It does, they didn't let me do it.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer1: Can we pay attention please.

Respondent: Yeah, not every day, but like if we do go then yeah.

Interviewer2: And do your friends go to the same places?

Respondent: Sometimes.

Respondent: Sometimes.

Respondent: Yeah. You might go to the place that they want to go to and then go to the place that you want to go to afterwards or something like that.

Interviewer2: Okay. And do you buy the same thing as your friends?

Respondent: No.

Respondent: No.

Interviewer2: So that doesn't influence you?

Respondent: No.

Interviewer2: You buy what you want to buy and they buy what they want to buy?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer2: And do you share?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer2: If you buy different things do you sometimes share with each other?

Respondent: No.

Respondent: Yeah, Jody shared with me yesterday.

Respondent: No.

Respondent: Go down the chippy after [inaudible 0:23:50].

Respondent: I haven't shared nothing.

Respondent: Yeah, Jody gave me a strawberry [overspeaking 0:23:53] yesterday.

Interviewer2: So we've talked about this a little bit already, you generally go to different places before and after school, we've all said you don't really buy much before school but after school we're very happy to go to a variety of places.

So if you do buy drinks or anything before school where do you get those from? Do you go to Tesco's, do you go to newsagents?

Respondent: No.

Respondent: Corner shops.

Respondent: No, the newsagents.

Respondent: Newsagents.

Respondent: Off-licence.

Interviewer2: Okay. So which are your favourite places outside of school? Any of these here or the ones that we saw on the previous slides?

Respondent: The ones that we saw previous.

Respondent: Previous slides.

Respondent: I love how close all this is to my house.

Interviewer2: And they're your favourite because it's good food and it's good price?

Respondent: Good food shop.

Respondent: It's just food. It's just food.

Respondent: [inaudible 0:24:36] favourite shop.

Interviewer1: So if you had to choose what would be more important for you when you're making decisions? Would it be how convenient somewhere is? So if it's on your journey to school or on your journey home or would it be how cheap it is or would it be how tasty the food is?

Respondent: How cheap it is.

Interviewer1: The quality? What's the number one? Number one for you is quality. How about the rest of you?

Respondent: Put quality.

Respondent: Convenience, convenience.

Respondent: How cheap it is.

Interviewer1: Cheapness, quality.

Respondent: Like I've seen like you know like when you get the fruit drinks and you've got like...you look underneath the bottle and there's like the bits at the bottom and it just looks really disgusting.

Interviewer1: Yeah, okay. So kind of a mixture, you want to make sure that there is quality but at a decent price?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer1: So convenience doesn't...would you sometimes go places that are a bit inconvenient, so you have to change your route to go there?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: No.

Respondent: Yeah I do.

Interviewer1: No? It's always on the way?

Respondent: No, yeah, mine is just a straight journey every day.

Interviewer1: Okay, convenient.

Respondent: Mine is straight until you turn left.

Respondent: Mine is dead straight.

Respondent: Imagine you buy some cheap food [overspeaking 0:25:35].

Respondent: I live in East End and I have to go to Celtic Avenue to find my
[overspeaking 0:25:36].

Respondent: I'm in [inaudible 0:25:36] Road, [inaudible 0:25:37].

Respondent: I just go to Celtic Avenue [inaudible 0:25:40].

Respondent: I just buy at Bethnal.

Respondent: This is making me really hungry.

Interviewer1: Sorry, lunch is soonish.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer2: So are you happy with the type of food outlets that are around the school?

Respondent: Oh definitely, yes.

Interviewer2: Is there anything that you would like to have that you don't have?

Respondent: CJ.

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Oh yeah CJ.

Respondent: What's CJ?

Respondent: CJ. You don't know what CJ is?

Respondent: It's a trainers thing shop.

Respondent: We are talking about food [inaudible 0:26:04], that's why I was thinking there's a food place called CJ?

Interviewer2: Yeah, so we're talking about food places.

Respondent: No, maybe like ice cream shops.

Interviewer2: You'd like an ice cream shop?

Respondent: Baskin Robbins.

Respondent: Yeah, Dominos or a Pizza Hut.

Respondent: Like Bubbleology.

Interviewer1: Oh Bubbleology, oh okay, they're the drinks?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: That's expensive.

Respondent: Oh smoothies.

Interviewer2: Okay, so you'd like one of those nearby?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: I've never tasted Bubbleology.

Interviewer2: But generally you're quite happy with what you've got?

Respondent: Creams, Creams.

Respondent: Creams?

Respondent: I thought Creams was a dessert place?

Interviewer2: There's lots of variety and lots of choice isn't there and if you feel like something different you could go and get what you want elsewhere.

Respondent: I'd rather have Cookies & Cream.

Respondent: They should put a Japanese Canteen.

Respondent: I want Cookies & Cream.

Respondent: Ice cream shop.

Interviewer2: So we've talked about this already, do you always buy from the canteen for your lunch and lots of you said no.

Respondent: Sometimes no.

Interviewer2: So do the food and drink that you have for breakfast or on the way to school or at mid-morning break influence what you eat and drink during lunchtime?

Respondent: No.

Interviewer2: So if you've had a big breakfast does that sometimes make you have less to eat at lunchtime or...?

Respondent: No.

Respondent: No.

Interviewer2: Are you always hungry at lunchtime so you want to eat?

Respondent: The more food the better.

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah, lessons are too long.

Respondent: Because like four periods is quite draining, you have to refuel.

Interviewer2: So do you all eat at break time? Do you usually all buy something at brunch?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Most of the time, yeah.

Respondent: Yeah, if there's anything left, they tend to run out very fast at brunch.

Interviewer2: And what sort of things? I saw some pasta pots and some...

Respondent: Burritos.

Respondent: Wedges.

Respondent: Tuna rolls.

Respondent: Tuna rolls, sausage rolls.

Interviewer2: All at break, so you can buy all of that at break time?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah. But they don't give us pizza any more.

Respondent: Yeah they do.

Respondent: They did pizza, we saw it the other day.

Respondent: [inaudible 0:27:50] today.

Respondent: Every now and then.

Respondent: It's just not there when you get there, that's the thing, it's always gone.

Respondent: They did a lot more before.

Respondent: Oh wedgy pots, yes.

Respondent: Since year 7 the quality of the pizza has just got worse, like it's always either burnt or there's like barely any cheese on it, it just looks like bread with tomato on top.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer2: Yeah, we did observe that. So just moving away a little bit what do you think your family would think about the food and drink that you buy at lunchtime and after school? So do you tell your family what you've had for lunch and after school?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: No.

Respondent: If they ask me.

Respondent: Yeah, if they ask.

Interviewer1: Do they ask regularly or does it not really...?

Respondent: My mum sometimes asks, she says 'What did you have for lunch?' She doesn't care.

Interviewer2: So do you tell them that you go to the fast food places after school?

Respondent: No.

Respondent: No.

Interviewer2: How come? Is that because you don't think they'd approve or because...?

Respondent: Because my mum will go on a very...she'll just go into it and she'll start talking too much.

Interviewer2: So you think it's because she wouldn't approve of you having that food?

Respondent: Basically.

Respondent: There's actually no point saying anything.

Interviewer2: So when you get home, after you've bought this food after school do you still have a meal in the evening?

Respondent: Yes.

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer2: So you'll still eat your food?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer1: What time do you guys normally have your evening meals then?
Because you finish school and then you've eaten something after
school sometimes and then you go home, is your evening meal like
later on then, so by then you're hungry, or is it...?

Respondent: Between like 7pm and 9pm for me.

Respondent: I have it between 6pm or 5pm.

Respondent: 7.30pm to 8pm.

Respondent: Last meal I have at kind of like 10pm.

Respondent: Because bedtime is at 10pm so like can't be eating over your bedtime.

Interviewer2: So staying with looking at family is what you have for lunch the same kind of food you have at home?

Respondent: Nah.

Respondent: Sometimes.

Interviewer2: No? So what would you normally have at home?

Respondent: Pasta.

Respondent: I tend to have chips with every single dinner meal which I realised that a little while ago, but yeah...

Respondent: Pasta, lasagne, rice. Sometimes rice and curry, but I don't like rice and curry.

Respondent: I tend to have chicken, yeah, chicken.

Interviewer1: So rice, curry, chips. Chicken and chips.

Interviewer2: Okay, so you eat different food at home?

Respondent: Yeah, but not like from takeaways, like you know when you get the packet ones from like Iceland and Sainsbury's, that kind of chicken, southern fried roasted chicken.

Interviewer2: How do you mean?

Respondent: Salmon fried roasted chicken?

Respondent: Southern fried.

Respondent: Oh.

Respondent: Where did you get salmon from?

Respondent: I thought that's what you said. I was about to vomit.

Interviewer2: Guys, can we all listen in? Can we all listen in for a minute? Yeah, so people, depending on what your family is like people have different kinds of food, so more traditional foods perhaps.

Respondent: Yeah, I eat [inaudible 0:30:11].

Interviewer2: Okay.

Interviewer1: I love rice, I'm with you with that one. Does everyone in the family eat the same thing or do your parents make something different?

Respondent: Yes.

Respondent: Yeah. My mum makes one meal and we all eat it.

Interviewer1: One meal and everyone eats it. What about the rest?

Respondent: My mum makes like [inaudible 0:30:24].

Respondent: Candy, what's that [inaudible 0:30:25] or whatever, like jerk chicken that you and Zack eat?

Interviewer2: Do you eat with your families or do you eat at different times?

Respondent: With the family.

Respondent: I might actually eat different times.

Respondent: It's a mixture.

Respondent: It depends if I'm hungry when they make dinner. I might eat afterwards after they've eaten if I wasn't hungry before.

Interviewer2: Do you eat at the table or in front of the TV or a bit of both?

Respondent: In front of the TV.

Respondent: TV on the sofa.

Respondent: [inaudible 0:30:49].

Respondent: Relax yourself.

Respondent: I don't want to let anyone see my TV.

Respondent: You're going to run out of space on that board.

Interviewer2: And our last one is do your family give you advice about what you should be eating?

Respondent: Yes.

Respondent: Yes.

Respondent: Definitely.

Interviewer2: What advice do they give you?

Respondent: She says not eat stuff with a lot of oil inside it.

Interviewer2: Okay, what other things?

Respondent: [inaudible 0:31:10] diabetes explosion.

Respondent: My mum is like eat healthy stuff.

Interviewer2: So eat healthy stuff. And what does she say is healthy stuff?

Respondent: I don't know, like have more like...I don't know how to explain...

Interviewer2: Like fruit and vegetables?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer2: Yeah? Do you listen to their advice or does it kind of...?

Respondent: Sometimes.

Respondent: It goes straight through that ear and out the other one.

Interviewer2: Okay, so they do give you advice, sometimes you take it, sometimes you don't?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah, never.

Interviewer2: And do you find that the meals that they give you at school are healthy?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: No. No.

Respondent: I would say it's improved.

Respondent: You know when they give the dried rice [inaudible 0:31:49] chokes.

Respondent: [overspeaking 0:31:48] some days they had the sauces...

Respondent: Oh yeah, with the chicken they used to give the sauces.

Respondent: And now they start giving us sweetcorn and lettuce and salad sandwiches.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer2: Do you like that the food is healthy or not healthy?

Respondent: No.

Respondent: It's too healthy.

Interviewer2: It's too healthy?

Respondent: It's not even minced meat no more, it's quorn now, what's that?

Respondent: Yeah.

Respondent: That's like some [inaudible 0:32:10] fake meat.

Respondent: It's fake meat for vegetarians.

Interviewer2: So does anyone have anything else to say to say about school meals, food they eat in the school day?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer2: Yeah?

Respondent: You know like when they give the dried rice somebody can choke, like be [inaudible 0:32:24].

Respondent: Choke on rice?

Respondent: What did you say? Dried rice?

Respondent: Yeah, like with the dried rice and the dried chicken as well.

Interviewer2: Okay, so the food sometimes is quite dry?

Respondent: Yeah. They probably cook in oil with rice, that's why, I'm cooking with milk basically.

Interviewer2: That's us done for today. So thank you very much for everything you've said. We've got quite a lot of information and thoughts from you which we really, really do appreciate, it's really interesting to hear your thoughts on your school lunches and the food you eat before and after school. So we're going to take this information back with us and compare it to some other schools and we're speaking to the year 8s after so it will be interesting to see what their thoughts are as well. So I think we are done. So if you guys want to make over to your lessons.

Respondent: Mmm, not really.

Interviewer1: I think we rephrase the question, please head to your next lesson.

Interviewer2: Please head to your next lesson. Thank you very much guys.

Interviewer1: We appreciate how difficult that might be.

END OF AUDIO