



## Healthier school meals 'a failure'

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Campaign: Jamie Oliver

Thousands of pupils have been shunning school meals since the Jamie Oliver inspired crusade to make them healthier, it was claimed.

A total of 428,000 children rejected food cooked at school in the two years after the campaign was launched in 2005, according to the Liberal Democrats.

They said two-thirds of secondary and 60 per cent of primary school pupils do not now eat meals provided by schools.

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The Government launched the crusade after TV chef Oliver attacked school meals for being junk-food based.

Lib Dem schools spokesman David Laws said: 'These figures show the English school meals service is in meltdown.'

'The new standards for healthier school meals have been introduced too quickly, too inflexibly and with too little education of pupils and parents.'

He added that prices of school meals 'have been rising too quickly'.

Kevin Brennan, the minister responsible for school meals, defended the scheme.

'It is true there has been a dip in take-up in some secondary schools, but some have actually seen an increase,' he said.

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