



# Food Policy

## Document Control

<b>Document Reference:</b>	Food Policy
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<b>Issue Date:</b>	November 2025
<b>Review Due:</b>	November 2027
<b>Statutory Yes/No</b>	No

<b>Document History</b>			
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Author</b>
1	May 2012	Review and update existing policy	L. Grover
2	June 2014	Review and update existing policy	L. Grover
3	Nov 2016	Scheduled review of policy	L. Grover
4	Nov 2018	Scheduled review of policy	I.Webb
5	Nov 2020	Scheduled review of policy	I.Webb
6	Feb 23	Scheduled review of policy	I.Webb
7	Nov 26	Scheduled review of policy	I.Webb

<b>Approval</b>		
<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Chair</b>
Teaching & Learning Committee	12.06.12	D. Rodgers
Teaching & Learning Committee	10.06.14	D. Rodgers
Teaching & Learning Committee	01.11.16	K. Scheinkonig
Resources Committee	17.03.23	S.Archer
Resources Committee	20.11.25	A.Tebbutt

## **Why do we have a food policy?**

- To ensure that all aspects of food and nutrition in school promote the health and wellbeing of pupils, staff and visitors to our school.
- To make it clear that this school actively supports healthy eating throughout the school day and recognises the important connection between a balanced diet and a student's ability to learn effectively.
- To ensure the school plays its part in the larger community by helping to promote family health and sustainable food and farming practices.

## **What do we want to achieve?**

- To ensure that every pupil has access to safe, tasty, and nutritious food, and a safe, easily available water supply during the school day.
- To ensure the provision and consumption of food is an enjoyable and safe experience.
- To ensure that the whole school community understands that a balanced diet is essential.
- To increase pupils' knowledge of food production, manufacturing, distribution and marketing practices, and their impact on health and the environment.
- To increase pupil, parent and staff knowledge and awareness of food issues, including what constitutes a healthy and environmentally sustainable diet, hygienic food preparation and storage methods.
- To ensure that food provision in the school reflects all the requirements of staff and pupils e.g. religious, ethnic, vegetarian, medical and allergenic needs.
- To introduce and promote practices within the school to reinforce these aims, and to remove or discourage practices that negate them.
- Links between food and the relevance children's mental health, behaviour and learning.
- Encouraging and increasing the take up of school meals is still on-going and important in achieving our aims.
- Schools should keep abreast of fads and cultural changes in the way children and young people use food e.g. 'energy drinks' and respond appropriately including through information sharing, interventions, assemblies, or curriculum adaption, pupil consultation, etc.

## **How our food policy is implemented**

- School ethos
- Curriculum
- Forest schools
- Break times
- Lunchtime
- Staff and visitors
- School visits and events
- Community involvement

## **School ethos**

The importance of a balanced diet is consistently communicated throughout the school day including trips and events. Staff are also encouraged to participate and model healthy eating as a valuable part of daily life.

It will be made clear that the emphasis placed on a balanced diet is to enable safe and effective learning as well as providing a foundation for good health.

## **Curriculum**

Children need to get consistent messages about nutrition in lessons and at lunchtime. PSHE, Geography, Science, Food Technology, RE and Languages may all contribute to the curriculum delivery of food education.

Curriculum delivery will involve:

- Practical food experience delivered by properly trained staff and will be adequately resourced.
- Use cooking and growing as an exciting way to teach subjects across the curriculum.
- Involve growing food in school and which can be used in the school lunch.

It may be appropriate for a wide variety of foods to be prepared and consumed within the curriculum or at a celebration. It is recognised that eating together is a fundamental experience for all people; a primary way to nurture and celebrate our national values, cultural diversity; and an excellent bridge for building friendships, and inter-generational bonds. The context of a balanced diet makes this entirely appropriate provided everyone's dietary needs are met. Foods containing high levels of sugar and salt will be avoided.

Unhealthy foods will not be used as rewards.

Parents sometimes wish to give out birthday food and are encouraged to follow our policy on healthy eating at these times.

All pupils and staff have water freely available at all times and are able to refill bottles easily. Certain classrooms/subjects may wish to manage the intake of water for safety. This is acceptable as long as the principle above is fundamentally upheld.

## **Break time**

For break times, parents are asked to provide children with healthy snacks, such as fruit, vegetables if they wish. Sweets, cereal bars, chocolate, crisps and fizzy drinks are not to be brought to school. Water is encouraged at breaks as well as in the classroom. This is to ensure that pupils return to the classroom prepared and refreshed for learning. It also helps us to limit litter and control the environment to make it safe for a pupil with a nut allergy.

Food or drink sold to the pupils is consistent with this policy. At social events such as discos and Summer Fayres, a choice of food is made available for visitors (including children) to choose from.

## **Lunchtime**

Lunches exceed the national guidance. All pupils have a choice enabling them to eat healthily. No fizzy or sugared drinks are sold. Water is always freely available.

Pupils are encouraged to taste and eat new foods; achieved through 'Theme Days' and taster sessions.

Staff, time and seating arrangements are sympathetic to a positive social eating environment for those buying lunches and those eating a packed meal.

Packed lunches are monitored and the curriculum encourages healthy sandwiches etc.

## **Staff and visitors**

Staff will be encouraged to model the food policy and where possible eat with the pupils. Cooks and lunchtime supervisors are treated as part of the school team.

Visitors will be offered healthy refreshments, or at least a choice which contains a healthy option.

## **School visits and events**

Food served at events and offered on trips will be consistent with school policy. Guidance on packed meals will be given, encouraging a healthy balanced choice.

## **Enforcement**

Where members of the school community find that they are unable to work within the policy then school will negotiate on an individual basis.

The more careful and genuine consultation that has taken place will make enforcement easier. For example, a School Council issues the healthy snack policy to parents and asks for their comments. Don't forget it's a balanced diet!

## **Current guidance**

The following are current guidelines, School Food Standards 2015:  
[School food standards practical guide - GOV.UK](#)

## **Equal opportunities**

Provision is made for special diets for medical conditions following appropriate medical verification, ethical and cultural requirements, and for appropriate preparation, presentation and access.

Free lunch provision will be handled sensitively and confidentially.

## **Personnel**

The Headteacher and Governing Body are responsible for all food in school.

## **Monitoring and evaluation**

The Headteacher will monitor the effectiveness of this policy ensuring that training and resourcing are appropriate and up to date.

## **Policy development and review**

Before each scheduled review, this policy document will be revised where necessary in consultation with the wider school community, including pupils, parents, and school staff, the catering staff,

governors, LA representatives, community dietician, school community nurse, and local healthy school standards representative.

This document is freely available to the entire school community. It has also been made available, in the school newsletter and the school web-site.

This policy will be reviewed on a two-yearly basis.