



FOOD AND DRINK POLICY

Introduction

We are committed to ensuring that the children in our care grow into healthy adults, this being the first of the five principal requirements of the Children Act 2004 ('Every Child Matters'), i.e. that they:

- be healthy;
- stay safe;
- enjoy and achieve;
- make a positive contribution;
- achieve economic well-being.

Consequently, this school does its utmost to teach children the key points about living a healthy life, including the importance of ensuring that all food and drink is nutritious and healthy. We have achieved the National Healthy School Standard, and our Whole-School Food Policy is designed to contribute a vital element to our strategy of creating a school environment in which children can thrive. We believe that it is only through a whole-school approach that the key messages about food and drink can be really effectively conveyed. This document sets out our policy on this.

Aims and objectives

1. To help children know and understand the importance of food and drink in a healthy lifestyle.
2. To help children learn what healthy food is.
3. To give children the skills they need to make the right choices with regard to food and drink.
4. To promote the physical and emotional well-being of all our children.

The curriculum

We will plan explicit teaching about healthy eating in our formal curriculum. For example, we will teach children about the preparation and cooking of healthy food in design technology classes, while in geography lessons, children will learn where food comes from and how it reaches the shops. In

science, we will teach about nutrition and the needs of a healthy body. Through mathematics, we will teach children to measure and calculate size and weight. In English, we will provide opportunities for children to discuss, read and write about health-related issues, such as GM foods, and why some parts of the world have a surplus of food, while other parts have famine. In religious education, children will learn about how food is valued in different societies, and the part food plays in religious custom and practice. In physical education, children will have the opportunity to learn how their body reacts to exercise, and the importance of food and drink to participation in sport and dance. In PSHE, children will have the opportunity to reflect on food-related issues such as how food is advertised, and how we can enjoy treats without damaging our bodies.

We will also promote healthy eating through the informal curriculum. For example, we provide on a daily basis the opportunity for all EYFS and KS1 children to eat a piece of fruit or vegetable during morning break any surplus is available to KS2. We also encourage children to bring their own fruit if they so wish. We will encourage children to participate in school games clubs and sports, and so learn the enjoyment of a healthy lifestyle. We will organise school visits to outdoor pursuit centres, and provide opportunities for children to explore the natural world. Our school site will be fully exploited in the interest of the children's physical and emotional development through playground activities.

The school environment

We will ensure that our school environment promotes healthy eating. We will not allow children to bring sweets, crisps or chocolate into school at any time.

We will only give out sweets for a special treat and only one per child. The children will be taught that treats in small amounts can be part of a well balanced diet and that they must not be eaten in large amounts and why.

We will not have vending machines on the school site that dispense sweets or chocolate.

We will encourage children to drink plenty of water by providing them with a water cup for use at any time, access to cooled water, and regular opportunities to drink water throughout the day.

Children will be encouraged to bring fruit to eat at break times if they wish to have a snack. They will not be allowed to eat crisps or sweets.

School food prepared on site

We will serve only healthy food and drink for our school lunches. Our school meals are prepared on the premises by appropriately trained and qualified staff. All staff has achieved NVQ Level 2 in Food Hygiene, Professional cookery and Safety in Catering, which is updated every three years. A basic

requirement will be that they provide a vegetarian option each day, that they always serve vegetables and fruit, and that all lunches have a balanced nutritional value.

The parents or carers of children who bring packed lunches will be made aware of our healthy-school policy, and given clear guidance about what should be included in a healthy packed lunch.

Staff in the EYFS are given the opportunity to achieve the Basic Food Preparation Certificate, as they help to prepare and provide a daily snack for the children in their care. Any other member of staff involved in the preparation of food will be trained accordingly.

Role of parents and carers

We will work closely with parents and carers to ensure that the messages about food and drink we give in school are reinforced and supported at home.

We expect all parents and carers who send their children to our school to respect our healthy food policy and to support it fully through the food they give their children to bring to school.

6.3 We will provide parents with a leaflet to explain to parents and carers the importance we place on healthy eating, and why we endorse this policy.

Monitoring and review

The governing body will monitor this policy to ensure that our children are taught the importance of healthy eating. It will be reviewed on a regular basis, and at least once every two years.