

PACKED LUNCH POLICY

Rationale

To ensure that all packed lunches brought from home and consumed in school (or on school trips) provide the pupils with healthy, safe and nutritious food.

Schools are required to positively promote the health and well-being of their pupils.

The content of lunchboxes needs to reflect the requirement of schools to meet minimum food and nutrition standards for school meals.

Packed lunches should provide a nutritious, balanced diet to support the child's learning and development.

Aims

To ensure that packed lunches (brought in from home) reflect the standards for school meals introduced in September 2006.

Please visit www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk for more information

To encourage a high nutritional quality of packed lunches in schools and healthy eating habits of children at lunchtimes, that can influence health and well-being.

To further raise the profile of healthy eating throughout the school.

To encourage healthy eating habits from an early age and improve the overall nutrition of pupils

What the school will provide:

- an appropriate area where pupils who choose to bring packed lunches can eat and where possible, they will be able to sit with those having school dinners.
- a storage area / facilities for packed lunch bags, in the most convenient and appropriate place possible. However, the school cannot provide cooled storage areas and therefore cannot take legal responsibility for foods prepared at home and then brought into school.
- drinking water for pupils who request it

The school will, within reason, send any uneaten packed lunch food items back home. The rationale for this is that parents can also monitor what their child has consumed

during the day and then raise any concerns over their child's food intake with the school.

Guidance

Suggestions for food to include in a healthy packed lunch

- At least **one** portion of fruit or vegetables every day
These foods provide vitamins, minerals and fibre.
- Meat, fish, eggs or other source of non- dairy protein (eg lentils, beans, soya or hummus) every day (usually as part of a sandwich, wrap, roll or salad)
- Oily fish such as pilchards, tuna or salmon
These foods provide protein for growth
- A starchy food such as bread, pasta, rice, potatoes or other types of cereals every day
These starchy foods are a healthy source of energy.
- Dairy food such as milk, cheese, yoghurt or fromage frais
These foods provide calcium for healthy bones and teeth.
- A drink of water, juice or a smoothie
- Cereal bars (not chocolate)
- Pretzels, seeds, fruit, crackers and cheese and vegetable or bread sticks with a dip.

Suggestions for food less often in a healthy packed lunch

- Meat products such as sausage rolls, individual pies, corned meat and sausages/chipolatas
- Cakes
- Crisps
- Biscuits (not chocolate)

Packed Lunches should not include:

- Drinks other than water
- Sweets
- Chocolate
- Chocolate spread as a filling for sandwiches
- Chewing gum
- Nuts or nut products because of the danger to other children with allergies
- Hot food – due to the health and safety concerns relating to food poisoning and scalding. Hot food must be kept at a temperature of not less than 75 degrees Celsius in order to prevent the development of dangerous bacteria. The school has no facilities to maintain or monitor required temperatures for hot packed lunches.

Staff and other children are at risk of scalding if hot foods/soups are spilled in the dining room.

Special Diets

The school recognises that some pupils may require special diets due to verified medical conditions. In this case, parents are urged to inform the school and be responsible in ensuring that packed lunches are as healthy as possible.

For these reasons, children must eat their own and no-one else's packed lunch.

Written by Rachael Bentham. June 2017.

Approved by the Governing Body. July 2017.

To be implemented September 2017.