



WHOLE SCHOOL FOOD POLICY

Reviewed policy agreed by GB on:	Summer 2023
Reviewed policy shared with staff on:	Summer 2023
Policy to be reviewed again on:	Summer 2026
Committee responsible for review:	Policy Committee

Rationale

We believe that an active lifestyle and a well-balanced diet can enhance the health of children. There are several national initiatives to help improve the diet of children, e.g. School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme (SFVS), Food 4 Life/Change 4 Life, School Food Plan and the government initiative for free school meals for all primary age children. However, we recognise that the nutritional and hydration needs of our pupils vary and may not always fit the government standards. The government 'School food in England' document provides advice to governors and school leaders about ensuring a healthy, nutritious, high quality whole food approach in schools is applicable to our school population when viewed alongside professional guidance for individual children. Our main priority is to meet the specific needs of the individual child. The Whole School Food Policy enables Willow Dene School to take into account government guidance and the individual needs of some pupils by developing and maintaining a shared philosophy on all aspects of food and drink. It provides a public statement which demonstrates how Willow Dene School cares for and makes a positive contribution to the health and welfare of pupils, staff and other stakeholders.

Aims

To ensure that all aspects of food and nutrition in school promote the health and wellbeing of every member of our school community.

Equal Opportunities

At Willow Dene we believe that every child is entitled to safe and appropriate provision of food and drink, in order to stay as well-nourished as possible and maintain and develop their existing skills in eating and drinking. We promote a positive and healthy attitude towards nutrition which takes account of medical complexity and individual diversity. We foster an ethos of teamwork and will strive to ensure that all members of staff feel supported, informed and comfortable in working with children who have eating and drinking difficulties.

Objectives

We ensure that the following objectives are fully integrated into all aspects of school life and are accepted and embraced by all members of the school community

- **School Curriculum**

- The curriculum enables learning related to food and nutrition in subject areas. This provides coverage, consistency and progression and is current
- Opportunities are provided for pupils to prepare and explore fresh ingredients

- In Citizenship, the Compass 11 before 11 document includes the intention 'to plant a seed and grow food', which all primary children will have the opportunity to do as part of their planned coverage of 11 before 11
- Where appropriate, pupils will understand the requirements of a healthy balanced meal

- **School Meals**

- As far as is possible, all school meals served will meet the Government's School Food Standards to ensure that pupils are getting a nutritious balanced meal
- As far as is possible, all medical and dietary needs are met within the Government's School Food Standards
- Water will be served with all meals and pupils will be encouraged to drink water throughout the day
- For pupils where water is not an appropriate drink other drinks will be available at mealtimes and throughout the day
- A suitable, clean, and attractive environment is provided in which to eat lunch
- The school leadership team will continually review and revise the lunch menu with the catering providers in order to meet the Government's food-based standards in a way which is accessible to all children.
- Children will be given the opportunity to make choices between healthy options in a way that is appropriate to them

- **Snacks**

- All snacks provided during the school day conform with healthy eating guidelines, or with specific eating and drinking guidelines for an individual where appropriate

- **Packed Lunches**

- Packed lunches, for both pupils and staff, are stored in a safe way (cool storage)
- Parents can be provided with information on what constitutes a healthy packed lunch

- **Water Provision**

- Pupils and staff have access to free, clean, and palatable drinking water, or other drinks where water is not appropriate, throughout the school day
- Staff are aware of individual pupils hydration needs and ensure that these are met

- **Pupils**

- Up-to-date records of pupils medical and dietary needs are maintained and school and catering staff are aware of these

- **Staff**

- All staff who may handle food have basic food hygiene training
- Staff understand what a balanced and healthy meal consists of

Guidelines

In order to achieve the objectives:

- A member of the School Leadership Team has been identified to oversee aspects of food provision throughout the school day
- An effective structure will be established with Chartwell's to oversee the development, implementation and monitoring of this policy
- A participatory approach will be encouraged for the whole school community to meet the objectives
- Aspects of the School Development Plan will support our commitment to meeting these objectives
- The School Leadership Team work in Partnership with Chartwells, school meals providers, to develop and provide healthy texture modified menus for children with dysphagia or those having a blended diet

Roles & Responsibilities

Senior Leadership Team– to oversee all aspects of food provision throughout the school, including working with the school caterers, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the policy

Essential Skills and Curriculum Leaders – to ensure the curriculum supports healthy eating, to monitor planning and observe lessons in support of this

Teachers and Class Staff– to follow healthy eating guidelines in the delivering the curriculum and in the provision of snacks. To ensure all aspects of the Whole School Food Policy apply as appropriate to children who are enterally fed

Speech and Language Therapists – to provide support for pupils with dysphagia to ensure that they are included within the healthy eating agenda

Medical Team – to provide support for all medical aspects of healthy eating ensuring that all pupils with specific dietary requirements are included within the healthy eating agenda. This includes the provision of food supplements, gastro and NG tubes, referrals to clinics and dietetic services

Monitoring & Evaluation

In order to effectively evaluate this policy, we will ask ourselves the following questions on an annual basis or in light of any developments and changes in school

- Are our objectives being met?
- How can we tell?
- Have there been any difficulties? Why have they arisen?
- What have been the successes? What made these possible?
- What do parents and pupils think about our policy?
- Is it having an effect on food and drink choices, educational attainment, attendance or behaviour?
- Are there any local or national initiatives in which the school should join?
- How can the policy be improved?

We will then make sure that we action any developments that need to happen, celebrate our successes and continue to engage relevant stakeholders.

We will continually review and research the healthy food standards and guidelines in relation to the individual needs of the children at Willow Dene School.

Related Documentation

Policy for the management of children with dysphagia

School Food Trust – 'Eat better, Do better'

Curriculum Documentation

School meals documentation