

Thames View Junior School

Mr James Smith - Executive Headteacher
Mrs Sandy Sanghera - Head of School
Miss Chloe Woodington - Deputy Headteacher
Mr James Hall – AHT & Inclusion Lead



HEALTHY PACKED LUNCH AND SNACKS POLICY

Updated by: Karen Hastilow

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Office@Thamesviewjunior.com
02045119240
www.ThamesViewJunior.com

1. AIMS

At Thames View Junior School, we aim to educate our children with the skills, knowledge and understanding to enable them to make informed healthy lifestyle choices. To do that effectively we need to work in partnership with parents and carers in securing the best for every child.

AIMS

- To ensure children have a suitable midday meal that sustains and prepares them for the afternoon learning.
- To provide a safe, healthy and appealing eating environment for pupils bringing in packed lunches and ensure that free, fresh drinking water is available at all times.
- To help children develop an understanding of healthy eating.
- To promote the School Food Trust guidelines and national standards for healthier eating.
- To support parents and carers in providing a healthy packed lunch that meets the same standards as food provided in school dinners and abide by the regulations of the British Nutrition Foundation

2. PACKED LUNCH GUIDELINES

The following guidelines for lunchbox contents come from the statutory guidelines for school provided meals. This ensures equality of entitlement for all children.

The recommended contents of a healthy lunch box are:

- A good portion of starchy food e.g. bread, crackers, pasta or rice salad.
- Plenty of fruit and vegetables e.g. an apple, orange, banana, carrot sticks, small box of raisins or any other fruit or vegetable
- A portion of dairy food e.g. yoghurt.
- A bottle of water
- Cereal bars – CHOCOLATE AND NUT FREE
- One packet of crisps or cake bar (No Chocolate or Nuts) – This is equivalent to a school meal dessert
- Warm vegetarian starchy foods (not soups) in a temperature-controlled container (i.e. thermos)

Packed lunches should NOT include:

- Chocolate spread
- Chocolate bars
- Biscuits
- Sweets
- Fizzy drinks

We recommend sending lunch boxes with a cold pack or frozen bottle of water inside in hot weather to prevent spoiling as we do not have refrigerated storage for lunches.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD WITH NUTS OR FOOD CONTAINING NUTS AS WE HAVE A NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH SEVERE ALLERGIES

We fully respect individual parent's food choices for their children and understand that there are many different needs and tastes. However, if lunchbox contents regularly fall short of the expectations in this policy we will send a reminder home to parents. We want to work with parents to educate our children about healthy dietary choices so that the children, through the understanding of a balanced diet, will develop a greater appreciation of a healthy lifestyle.

PLEASE NOTE: Any confiscated items will be left at reception for up to 2 working days before disposal.

3. BREAK TIME SNACKS

If your child wishes to bring their own break time snack from home, it must be a healthy snack. Healthy snacks can include:

- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Yogurt tubes/pouches
- Dried fruits
- Cereal bars – CHOCOLATE AND NUT FREE
- Crackers

4. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS & POLICY LINKS

This policy will be reviewed every year by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. At every review, the policy will be shared with the full governing board.

This policy links to the following policies and procedures: Whole School Food Policy

5. RELEVANT GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

This departmental advice relates to the following legislation:

- Sections 512, 512ZA, 512ZB, 512A, 512B and 533 of the [Education Act 1996](#), as amended
- Section 114A of the [School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#)
- 2014 No. 1603 Education, England [The requirements for School Food Regulations 2014](#)

The following guidelines have informed all decisions made above

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-food-standards-resources-for-schools/school-food-standards-practical->

- [guide](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-food-standards-resources-for-schools/allergy-guidance-for-schools)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-food-standards-resources-for-schools/allergy-guidance-for-schools>

- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/68416b27578282a4b102c065/Free_school_meals_-_guidance_for_local_authorities_maintained_schools_academies_and_free_schools.pdf
- <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2014/1603/contents/made>