



**WHITEFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**HEALTHY HEARTS; HEALTHY BODIES; HEALTHY MINDS**

**HEALTHY EATING AND DRINKING POLICY**  
**2024/25**

The Governing Board of *Whitefield Primary School* adopted this policy – July 2024.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Headteacher (Autumn Term) – last reviewed July 2024.

Signed by:

_____	Headteacher	Date: _____
_____	Chair of governors	Date: _____

## Contents:

### Statement of intent

1. Legal framework
2. Roles and responsibilities
3. Our aims
4. Healthy eating statement
5. Drinks
6. Breaktime snacks
7. School lunches
8. Packed lunches
9. Exemptions
10. Curriculum
11. Allergies and dietary requirements
12. Mental health and wellbeing
13. Communication with parents
14. Monitoring and review

## Statement of intent

At WHITEFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL, we will support pupils to eat healthily and keep hydrated while in school. We also aim to teach pupils to make healthy food and drink choices using the curriculum and to reflect these principles in the school's food menu and cooking provisions.

We acknowledge the important connection between a healthy diet and a pupil's ability to learn, concentrate, and achieve high standards in school. We are, therefore, committed to promoting a lasting healthy lifestyle for everyone.

As part of our healthy eating and living campaign, our catering through Lancashire Catering Service will uphold the highest standards of quality, nutrition and cleanliness; adhering, without exception, to food standards and legal obligations. As such, this policy has been implemented to help staff and parents deliver consistent messages to pupils, enabling them to develop a positive and independent approach to a healthy lifestyle.

## 1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- The Requirements for School Food Regulations 2014
- The Food Information (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2019 (Natasha's Law)
- Food Safety Act 1990
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998

This policy operates in conjunction with the following non-statutory guidance:

- DfE (2023) 'School food in England'
- DfE (2023) 'School food standards practical guide'
- The School Plan (2015) 'School Food Standards: A practical guide for schools, their cooks and caterers'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Pupil Equality and Diversity Policy
- Allergen and Anaphylaxis Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy

## 2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board will be responsible for:

- Ensuring the school promotes healthy eating and drinking habits to pupils.
- Ensuring the school meets the requirements of the School Food Standards.

- Ensuring the school makes reasonable adjustments where necessary for pupils with particular requirements, e.g. to reflect medical, dietary or cultural needs.

The headteacher will be responsible for:

- The overall implementation of this policy.
- Managing, or appointing a member of staff to manage, the school's approach to healthy eating and drinking.
- Putting measures in place to ensure the school meets the requirements of the School Food Standards and other related legislation, such as Natasha's Law.

### **3. Our aims**

The school will adopt the following aims:

- Integrate a whole-school ethos towards healthy eating; therefore, helping both staff and pupils to perform well, concentrate better and improve general wellbeing.
- Ensure all pupils to be well nourished and hydrated, and to ensure they have access to nutritious food and safe drinking water during the school day.
- Encourage pupils to make informed food and drink choices in school and at home, contributing to life-long healthy eating habits.
- Use the curriculum to teach pupils safe, hygienic methods of preparing, handling and storing food, and to inform them about the benefits of choosing healthy options.
- Ensure there are consistent messages about healthy eating throughout the school.
- Keep food, health, and nutrition aspects of the curriculum up-to-date.
- Ensure the school reflects the ethical, medical, and religious dietary requirements of staff and pupils, and that suitable provisions are available.
- Celebrate diversity with cuisines from different cultures and other individual choices, e.g. vegetarianism, encouraging pupils to learn about and try new foods.
- Encourage fluid intake and help pupils keep hydrated, maintain concentration, reduce lethargy, and learn effectively.
- Inform staff and parents which provisions are permitted in school and to ensure they can effectively monitor what pupils are eating.
- Support those children who have additional needs that may impact on their eating and drinking habits and needs.
- Encourage staff to participate in our healthy eating ethos and act as role models to pupils.

### **4. Healthy eating statement**

The school will recognise and adhere to the School Food Regulations 2014 requirements for food and drink other than lunch that are:

- Provided to pupils on school premises up to 6pm, including:
  - Mid-morning break
  - During lesson time

The school will encourage pupils to adopt healthy lifestyles, both through a nutritional diet and regular exercise, and during assemblies, PE lessons, science and PSHE.

The school will adopt a healthy eating strategy and embeds its principles throughout the curriculum.

## 5. Drinks

The school will teach pupils the importance of drinking plenty of fluids and how hydration helps contribute to effective learning, good health and improved physical performance.

The school will provide safe drinking water throughout the school day. This will be available via:

- The children bringing in their own water bottles daily
- Water jugs provided during lunch time
- Classroom sink taps

Staff will have access to drinking water via a water cooler in the staff room.

The school will encourage pupils to consume extra fluids on hot days and during and after physical activity, e.g. PE and sports days.

Pupils will be encouraged to bring their own water with them to school. Pupils will be permitted to refill water bottles via the classroom sinks/water jugs during the school day.

Drinks with added sugar will not be available with school meals. Lancashire Catering Services will offer water or milk during lunch time service. The school will not permit fizzy drinks in bottles or cans on the premises at any time.

### Break time snacks

The school will encourage pupils to eat a snack at breaktime. ***At Whitefield this will be a piece of fresh fruit or fresh vegetable.***

The school **will not** permit any other snacks to be eaten at breaktime. Snacks that are not in line with our Healthy Eating and Drinking Policy will be returned to the adult who picks up the child at the end of the school day.

In line with the government's 'School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme', a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable is available to pupils aged four to six at morning breaktime.

## 6. School lunches

All school meals will meet the national guidelines for nutritional standards and food safety regulations. Our meals are supplied by LANCASHIRE CATERING SERVICES and prepared by fully trained catering staff.

Reasonable adjustments will be made to school lunches where necessary for pupils with particular requirements, e.g. to reflect medical, dietary or cultural needs. Parents can meet with the school cook to discuss any reasonable adjustments that can be made for their child.

School meals will include two portions of fruit, vegetables or salad per meal.

Portion sizes will be in line with the School Food Standards to help provide pupils with a nutritionally balanced meal and prevent excessive calorie intake.

School meals will include foods that are naturally rich in vitamins and minerals to support pupils' health and physical development.

The school will provide pupils with drinking water or semi-skimmed milk, with their meal. Additional water will be available from the water jugs in the hall.

Play team staff based in the hall will monitor pupils' food intake during lunchtime by allowing them only to leave their table once they are finished eating. If a member of staff has any concerns, the school will notify the child's parents via a face to face conversation or a telephone call.

Themed meals and meals served to celebrate festivals, holidays, or religious observances will follow the same standards applied to regular school meals.

School meals will not include drinks with added sugar, chocolates or sweets.

School meals will not include more than two portions of deep fried, battered or breaded food a week.

Pupils will not be permitted to share or swap any food, including that provided from home in a packed lunch or snacks.

## **7. Packed lunches**

The school will apply its healthy eating principles to packed lunches and will be committed to improving the quality of packed lunches that pupils consume. The standards of packed lunches will comply with the nutrition standards of school lunches.

Parents will be provided with clear guidance on providing a healthy packed lunch, and will be expected to provide their child with healthy packed lunches containing recommended food groups.

In line with the School Food Standards, packed lunches should contain the following:

- One portion of fruit, vegetable or salad
- Meat, fish or another source of non-dairy protein
- Carbohydrates, such as bread, pasta, rice or potatoes
- Dairy, such as cheese, yoghurt or custard
- Oily fish, e.g. smoked salmon, at least once every three weeks
- Only water, fruit juice, semi-skimmed or skimmed milk, yoghurt drinks or smoothies

Snacks in packed lunches should comply with this policy. The following food and drink are not permitted:

- Confectionary items such as sweets
- Carbonated drinks or those containing high levels of caffeine

If a pupil brings a lunch that is completely inappropriate, the school will provide a replacement meal for which parents will be charged. Concerns about the contents of a pupil's packed lunch

will be dealt with appropriately and proportionately. The pupil's parent will be contacted via a face to face conversation or a telephone call to remind them of the need to follow the school's policy and to discuss any concerns the parent has regarding their child's eating habits. If a pupil's packed lunch continues to not be appropriate, the school will contact the parents to arrange a meeting to discuss the matter further.

## **8. Exemptions**

The school recognises the following exemptions to the Healthy Eating and Drinking Policy:

- Food, drink and treats at parties or celebrations to mark religious or cultural occasions
- Provisions at fund-raising events
- Provisions used when teaching food preparation and cookery skills, including where the food is served to pupils as part of a school lunch
- Food and drinks provided on an occasional basis by parents or pupils
- Children who are at the start of certain medications that impact on their appetite will be able to supplement their lunchtime meal with something throughout the day, for example some medication to help with ADHD impacts on appetite so children are recommended to bring in protein shakes to alleviate significant weight loss.

## **9. Curriculum**

The school's Healthy Eating and Drinking Policy will be integrated into our curriculum. This will be achieved through the following teaching areas:

- PSHE
- PE
- Science
- D&T

The school will communicate how to lead a healthy lifestyle and make good food choices via the following:

- School assembly
- Guest speakers
- Newsletters
- Wellbeing team activities
- Sending school menus home
- Staff as role models

## **10. Allergies and dietary requirements**

The school will ensure the correct food safety measures are in place, in line with the Allergen and Anaphylaxis Policy and the Health and Safety Policy, to protect pupils with known allergies, intolerances, anaphylaxis, diabetes and other medical conditions associated with diet.

All foods that are pre-packed for direct sale (PPDS) will be labelled in line with the requirements of The Food Information (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2019, known as Natasha's Law, as outlined in the Whole-school Food Policy.

Parents will be required to provide the school with a written list of any foods their child may have an adverse reaction to, as well as the necessary actions to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction, such as any medication required. Parents will be requested to provide medical documentation to support their child's allergy.

LANCASHIRE CATERING SERVICE will be responsible for ensuring that the school's policies are adhered to at all times, including those in relation to the preparation of food, taking into account any allergens.

Learning activities which involve the use of food, such as food technology lessons, will be planned in accordance with pupils' IHP's, accounting for any known allergies of the pupils involved.

## **11. Mental health and wellbeing**

The school understands that some pupils may develop disordered eating. Staff will be trained to identify potential signs of disordered eating, which can include the following:

- Skipping lunchtime
- Avoiding eating around other people
- Eating very slowly
- Going to the bathroom soon after eating
- Becoming socially withdrawn and isolated
- Not participating in physical activities

Other physical signs can include the following:

- Thinning hair
- Dry skin
- Wearing baggy clothes
- Often saying they are cold
- Persistent low mood
- Irritability
- Unpredictable mood swings

If a member of staff has a concern about a pupil, they will speak to the DSL and senior mental health lead, as appropriate. Depending on the concern raised, support will be delivered in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy or Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy, or a combination of both.

The school will strive to protect pupils from developing disordered eating through a variety of methods, including the following:

- Developing pupils' social and emotional skills
- Teaching pupils about physical health
- Teaching pupils about body image



Pupils will be encouraged to speak to a trusted adult if they have concerns about their eating behaviour or relationship with food.

## **12. Communication with parents**

The school will communicate any changes and updates to this policy via the school app.

The school will send healthy eating newsletters and recommendations to parents every term.

The school will inform parents via a face to face conversation or a telephone call if concerns are raised about their child's eating habits.

The school will inform parents via the school newsletter which foods are not permitted as part of packed lunches, and how they will be returned once confiscated.

The school will involve parents in the healthy eating ethos, enabling them to provide consistent messaging about healthy choices at home.

Parents are responsible for keeping the school updated with any changes to their child's dietary requirements, including allergies, and any cultural, religious, or ethical food requirements.

Parents will inform the class teacher via a face to face conversation or a telephone call if they are concerned their child's eating habits during the school day.

## **13. Monitoring and review**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the headteacher and governing board, or in light of any changes to relevant legislation.

The next scheduled review date for this policy is September 2025.

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to catering providers, kitchen staff, parents and other stakeholders, where necessary.