

Holymead Primary School

Food Policy

2019

Rationale

Food in school is mainly covered under the policies of the catering company providing school meals on the premises, currently Chartwells. The company's policies are available on enquiry from the school office. However, there are some occasions when food is brought into school and these guidelines should be followed. This can include but is not limited to cookery lessons, party food, special curriculum or celebration days and treats.

Aims

The school recognises that there are many and varied cultures, religions, customs and beliefs in the school that affect the preparation and consumption of food. Whilst the school tries to work with parents to enable the best outcomes it is not always possible to meet every dietary requirement. Parent/carers, children and staff should work together to come to the most agreeable arrangements.

Guidelines

When planning cookery and curriculum tasting events eg Roman Day, teachers must always check for pupils with allergies and special diets and where possible liaise with parent/carers to offer alternatives eg cooking gluten free pizzas or vegetarian pasta. Risk assessments are carried out before cooking and where risks are deemed too serious the session is altered eg teachers must avoid cooking with any sort of nuts if they know a child in their class has an allergy to nuts.

Where consumption of food may trigger life threatening reactions then the school policy 'Supporting children in school with medical conditions' should be adhered to. Medicines, including epi-pens and anti-histamines should be on hand during cookery, food tasting sessions and parties etc.

Where it is imperative that children do not consume certain foods then parents/carers are welcome to provide an alternative. For example parent/carers of a child with a special diet may provide a plate of food specifically for their child at a party. This may be for cultural, religious, dietary, health or any other reason.

As a healthy school we do not encourage the bringing of sweets, cakes and treats to share for special occasions such as birthdays. We prefer parent/carers NOT to bring any such treats to school at all. Any sweets will be sent back home. If parents really want to share something then plain biscuits may be brought and given out on the door at the end of the day so parent/carers can decide if it is suitable for their child or not.

We are NOT a nut free, meat free or dairy free environment and where it is necessary to avoid such products parents/carers must make the school aware of

their child's needs so we can make plans accordingly. For instance pupils allergic to the dust of wheat flour can be moved to a different classroom and participate in an activity where wheat is not being used if parents/carers inform us.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed bi-annually and earlier if the need arises.

Latest update: May 2019

Review: May 2021



Gold level

Article 14

Every child has the right to think and believe what they want and to practise their religion and customs, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.