

Food Policy

Ratified by the Governing Body – May 2018

The Governing Body recognises the important connection between a healthy diet and a student's ability to learn effectively and achieve high standards in school. The Governors also recognise the role our school can play, as part of the larger community, to promote family health, and sustainable food and farming practices.

The Governing Body believes that sharing food is a fundamental experience for all people; a primary way to nurture and celebrate our cultural diversity; and an excellent bridge for building friendships, and inter-generational bonds.

The Governing Body expects the school to improve the health of the entire community by teaching students and families ways to establish and maintain life-long healthy and environmentally sustainable eating habits. This will be accomplished through food education and skills (such as cooking and growing food), the food served in school, core academic content in the classroom and by engaging in additional experiences provided by Trust partners etc.

Aims

To improve the health of students, staff and their families by influencing their eating habits through:

- increasing their knowledge and awareness of food issues,
- identifying what constitutes a healthy and environmentally sustainable diet, and
- teaching and explaining hygienic food preparation and storage methods.
- increasing students' knowledge of food production, manufacturing, distribution and marketing practices, and their impact on both health and the environment.
- ensuring students are well nourished at school, and that every student has access to safe, tasty, and nutritious food, and a safe, easily available water supply during the school day.
- ensuring that food provision in the school reflects the ethical principles of the Co-operative Trust and medical requirements of staff and students e.g. religious, ethnic, vegetarian, medical, and allergenic needs.

- making the provision and consumption of food an enjoyable and safe experience.

Objectives

To work towards ensuring that this policy is both accepted and embraced by

- Governors
- School leadership and management
- Teachers and support staff
- Students
- Parents
- Food providers
- The school's wider community

To integrate these aims into all aspects of school life, in particular

- Food provision within the school
- The curriculum
- Pastoral and social activities

Methods

Establish an effective structure to oversee the development, implementation, and monitoring of this policy, and to encourage a participatory approach to meeting the objectives.

Develop an understanding and ethos within the school of safe, tasty, nutritious, environmentally sustainable food, through both education and example.

Create an environment, both physical and social, conducive to the enjoyment of safe, tasty, nutritious, environmentally sustainable food.

Help to promote and raise awareness of environmentally sustainable food production methods and socially responsible food marketing practices.