

WHOLE SCHOOL FOOD POLICY

Purpose

- To ensure that lunches and any other food or drink provided at school meet the current standards for school food.
- To ensure that all aspects of food and nutrition at the school promote the health and wellbeing of students, staff and visitors to the school.
- To ensure free school meals are monitored regarding content, cost and provision.
- To acknowledge the importance to the learning process of fitness, health and diet.

Key Points

- The whole school food policy and its implementation is reviewed by the Staffing and Students committee of the governing body on an annual basis.
- The school actively supports healthy eating.
- The school encourages students to drink water throughout the school day, including during lessons.
- Students are encouraged to contribute to the whole school food policy through the school council, eco council and catering group.
- The school is working towards an active link between food and drink provision and the appropriate curriculum areas.

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Whole School Food Policy

The objectives of having a whole school policy are to ensure that:

- pupils have sufficient information about food and nutrition to allow them to make informed choices about what they eat and drink, both in and out of school.
- the appointed school caterer provides healthy goods in sufficient quantity.
- vending machines sell only healthy options.
- students are able to contribute to discussions with the caterer to determine what is sold, so long as requests comply with the school's healthy eating policy.
- a development plan is developed which is a live document and is updated each time that this policy is revised.
- Students, staff and their families are encouraged to improve their eating habits by increasing their knowledge and awareness of food issues, including what constitutes a healthy and environmentally sustainable diet, and hygienic food preparation and storage methods.

This will enable the school to:

- work towards ensuring that this policy is both accepted and embraced by
 - Governors
 - School management
 - Teachers and support staff
 - Students
 - Parents
 - Food providers
 - The school's wider community
- integrate these aims into all aspects of school life, in particular
 - Food provision within the school
 - The curriculum
 - Pastoral and social activities

The role of the contractor

The catering contractor will be provided with documentation specifying the school's requirements. The documentation will give specific information about healthy eating and the school's food policy. All the contractor's staff will be expected to have the appropriate food hygiene certification.

It is expected that the contractor will try to increase the take up of healthy food and drink each year and this will incorporate a development plan to be agreed by governors, which details improvements to premises, equipment and the delivery of the service. It is expected that the contractor will need to advertise products and fully involve students and staff in determining what food and drink is served on the premises.

The contractor will provide a service before and during school hours.

The contractor would be required to cater for individual dietary needs.

Governors

Governors and the school's leadership team will determine the length of any contract to provide food. Such a decision will comply with best value advice as well as Hertfordshire County Council's Financial Regulations. Governors will also determine the successful criteria for the appointing process which will take account of quality, innovation and delivery and not just finances.

The price of meals will be discussed and agreed by the school leadership team on an annual basis, and the agreed pricing structure is included (appendix A) at the back of this document.

Hertfordshire County Council recommend a figure for the cost of a free school meal. This is used as a basis for setting the price of a meal of the day.

The School

The school's curriculum actively contributes to the whole school food policy by providing information about healthy eating, nutrition and exercise.

The school has agreed that students (except sixth formers) must stay on site during the lunchtime period unless prior approval has been obtained. This will encourage students to have access to healthy food.

Students will be encouraged to let the caterer have feedback about the service provided. In order to do this the caterer will be invited to attend meetings of the school council.

The school will provide adequate supplies of water and encourage students to drink water on a regular basis.

Pricing Structure for School Meals

Governors have determined that the cost of meals will be as per the tariff below. Students in receipt of Free School Meals will be able to purchase a two course main meal or food up to the value that the school receives from the LA for this purpose.