



Food and Drink Policy

Godinton Primary School

April 2015

Approved by the Governing Body Strategy Group 29/04/15

This Policy is due for renewal in Term 5 2016-17

Godinton Academy Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 9404783. The registered office is at Lockholt Close, Ashford, TN23 3JR.

Food and Drink Policy

1. Introduction

Our food and drink policy enables our school to develop and maintain a shared philosophy on all aspects of food and drink. It makes a public statement which demonstrates how our school cares for and makes a positive contribution to the health and well being of pupils, staff and other stakeholders.

This policy:

- Sets out a coordinated approach to food and drink in order to increase the availability of healthier options.
- Ensures the equality of access and participation for all.
- Reinforces appropriate messages relating to food and drink e.g. ensuring consistency between the formal curriculum and school food and drink provision.
- Engages the entire school community in taking part in the policy development.
- Ensures greater sustainability of food initiatives through planned action.

This policy encourages all aspects of food and drink to be brought together clearly, consistently and coherently, including:

- The formal curriculum e.g. subjects, equipment and resources, ingredient provision and continuing professional development for staff.
- Extra curricular activities
- Participation in national events and initiatives e.g. school fruit and Vegetable Scheme, Healthy Schools etc.
- Provision of food and drink at school e.g. school meals, break time snacks, fluid intake throughout the day, and use of food as a reward.
- Consumption of food and drink at school e.g. dining room environment and lunchboxes.
- Events and lettings at school e.g. school fete.
- Pastoral care and welfare e.g. free school lunches.

1.1 Policy Development

A whole school approach is taken in the development of this policy. Input is made by staff through staff meetings, with catering and midday meals staff through their meetings and governors through the Strategy Group. Parents / carers views are ascertained through family healthy living questionnaires sent out every two years. Pupils' views are collected through the School Council who take a keen interest in healthy living.

1.3 Links with other policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with other policies that promote healthy living such as our physical activity policy, sex and relationship education (SRE) policy, personal, social and health education policy and our drugs education policy. It should also be viewed alongside our 'Healthy Schools Action Plan,'

2. Aims and Objectives

Proper nutrition is essential for good health and effective learning.

At Godinton Primary School we aim to:

- provide a consistent programme of cross-curricular nutrition education that enables pupils to make informed choices without guilt or anxiety.
- provide a 'whole school, whole day' approach to nutrition that makes the 'healthier choices, easier choices'.
- work in partnership with catering staff to ensure that nutritional standards are implemented by providing attractive, value for money meals that are appropriate to local needs.
- work in partnership to achieve a pleasant and sociable dining experience which enhances the social development of each pupil.
- Involve pupils and parents / carers in all decision making.

We aim to promote healthy & balanced eating by:

- encouraging pupils to choose a variety of foods to ensure a balanced intake in line with the national nutrition guide
- encouraging foods which are rich in vitamins, iron and calcium, in particular fruit, vegetables, meat, beans, bread and low fat dairy products.
- encouraging starchy foods as a source of energy (such as bread, pasta, rice and potatoes) rather than fatty foods.
- encouraging fruit juices, lower fat milk and sugar-free drinks.
- Promoting the consumption of water throughout the school day
- Promoting healthy break time snacks.
- Healthy eating contributes to the 5 outcomes of the Every Child Matters agenda.

3. National Healthy School Standard

Godinton has achieved National Healthy School Standard. Through this we continue to have a commitment to:

- consulting with parents / carers on all matters of health education policy;
- training teachers where relevant on aspects of food education;
- listening to the views of the children in our school regarding healthy eating;
- looking positively at any local initiatives that support us in providing the best healthy living teaching programme that we can devise.

4. Guidelines: Food Consumption throughout the School Day

We believe that the subtle messages that pupils receive about food and health from the daily life of school are as important as those given during lessons, e.g. school menus, peer pressure to eat certain snacks in packed lunches. By working together, we promote healthier eating habits.

4.1 School Catering:

- Our school meals are provided by Independent Catering and cooked on site.
- Menu choices for the week are displayed in the school hall, sent out to parents and are available on the school website.
- Independent Catering menus comply with the Governments new guidelines for nutritional standards (February 2015), both in:
 - Food based: complying with the different types of food recommended that children should be offered in a school lunch and their frequency.
 - Nutrient based: complying with the proportion of recommended nutrients that children should receive from a school lunch.
- All children are given a portion of vegetables as part of their meals. They are encouraged to try some, even if it is a small portion. Incentives are provided to increase the uptake of school meals and to encourage children to eat their lunch.
- Due to the large difference in calorie requirements between infants and juniors, portion sizes are adjusted accordingly.
- A vegetarian option is available on the school menu every day for any children who require this.
- The school encourages children to try out school dinners. Our new catering arrangements from April 2015 mean that children can have a school dinner on any day they wish.
- The school caterers attend parents' meetings as a means of engaging them.

All children in years R – 2 are able to have a free school lunch under the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme.

The school recognises the particular value of school meals to children from low-income families. The system for free school meals for children in other year groups is actively promoted to parents / carers by the school and a non-discriminatory process is emphasised.

Those families who pay for school meals do so using the sQuid payment portal.

Digital registration of pupils allows them to choose what they are having for lunch first thing in the morning. Wrist bands are handed out to the children which denote their selection. Children are supported in making their choices.

4.2 Packed Lunches

We encourage children to bring a healthy and nutritionally balanced packed lunch to school. Children are not allowed to bring fizzy sugary drinks in their packed lunch. Packed lunches are stored on trolleys in the classroom / cloakroom in a cool location away from direct sunlight. All waste and uneaten food is returned in the lunch box so that parents / carers know what has been eaten. The school has provided parents / carers with the opportunity to attend workshops on healthy eating and healthy packed lunches and has information leaflets available.

Due to an increased number of children with nut allergies in school, we ask that parents do not send children into school or on a school trip with any nut based products in their lunchboxes or as a break time snack. This would include items such as peanut butter sandwiches or packets of nuts.

4.3 Mid-morning Snack

In consultation with parents / carers and children it has been agreed that the only snack children can bring to school is fruit or vegetables e.g. tomatoes, apple, cucumber, celery on Monday to Thursday and an alternative healthy snack on Friday. This helps to reduce litter and ensures children still have an appetite for their lunch. If for dietary reasons, not for preference, children are unable to eat fruit or vegetables then this should be put in writing to the school, and an alternative healthy snack may be provided. Waste fruit peelings are put into special bins and then composted as organised by our Eco School Committee.

4.4 Schools Fruit and Vegetable Scheme

We participate in the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme for our infant children. Children have their piece of fruit or vegetable at mid afternoon each day. The selection of fruit and vegetables provided is wide. Children are encouraged to try different things and most eat something every day. Waste fruit peelings are put into special bins and then composted as organised by our Eco School Committee.

4.5 Drinks

- Children are only permitted to drink water during breaktimes and lesson times throughout the school day. This should be supplied in a clear plastic 250ml bottle. New children are provided with a school water bottle. Children can take their water bottles outside at breaktimes and have easy access to water in their classrooms.
- Children may bring a different drink to have at lunchtime as long as it is not a fizzy / sugary drink. Suitable options would include fruit juice, squash or milk drinks.
- Children are encouraged to drink 3 –4 glasses of water at school particularly after PE, active play and in hot weather.
- Water is provided from taps by sink areas in the classrooms. These areas are clean and sanitary. Posters about water consumption are displayed around the sink areas. Children do not get drinking water from the toilets.
- Children who have school dinners are provided with water to accompany their meal.
- All children in the school are offered milk at lunchtimes. This allows us to fulfil our statutory obligations for providing milk to under 5s and children in receipt of pupil premium. Milk is provided by Independent Catering at no charge to the school.

4.5.1 Toilets

- Children have access to appropriate toilet facilities throughout the school day. These are clean and well maintained on a daily basis.
- Children are encouraged to go to the toilet by the classteacher at breaktimes and before they go into lunch. This is built into daily routines within the classroom.
- Children are able to go to the toilet if they need to during lessons. Children should always ask an adult before they leave the room, so that the classteacher is aware of their whereabouts.
- Children may be asked by the teacher whether they can wait a *few* minutes before they go to the toilet, in order to prevent them missing key parts of a lesson or because another child is already out of the classroom. Children are encouraged to ask to go to the toilet in good time.
- The toilets from Year 3 upwards are outside the classrooms and are therefore unsupervised. Teachers will therefore only send children to the toilets one at a time.
- If a child persistently asks to go to the toilet during lesson times, then this may be an issue which teachers need to raise with parents.
- Children are able to access toilets at breaktimes and lunchtimes. If children need to go to the toilet at breaktime or lunchtime they should ask permission from a member of staff on duty.
- Disabled toilet facilities are available for pupils and adults within the school.
- Information is provided by the school as to the feminine hygiene facilities available. This forms part of sex and relationship education guidance materials.
- Where children have difficulty with toileting, the school follows the guidance within the document ‘ Guidance for Safe Working – Practice Adults who work with children and Young People’ (DCSF January 2009).

4.6 Breakfast Club

- Godinton Primary School has a breakfast which is open to children from any year group 5 mornings a week.
- Breakfast is provided and centres around healthy choices including toast, yoghurt, cereals and fruit, addressing the National food standards.
- Training is provided for staff where appropriate in issues such as food preparation and nutritional standards.

4.7 Foundation Stage

Learning about food and eating is part of the foundation stage curriculum, forming aspects of the early learning goals.

The school adheres to the welfare requirements connected with food as outlined in the DfE Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2007).

5. Guidelines: Food within the Curriculum

5.1 Curriculum Content

- The National Nutrition Guide – ‘The Balance of Good Health’ is built into our curriculum. Within our curriculum for Science, Personal, Social and Health education (PSHE) and Design Technology (DT) an understanding of the importance of healthy eating is taught. In science children learn about different food groups, the importance of a balanced diet and how different foods are important for different aspects of good health e.g. that too many sugary drinks or foods can be damaging to the teeth. In PSHE children learn about the importance of healthy diet as a key part of a happy and healthy lifestyle. In DT children learn about how to plan and prepare food such as fruit salad or healthy sandwiches.
- Pupils are given the opportunity to taste, touch, smell and feel a variety of foods.
- As part of their opportunities to prepare food children have the opportunity to use different forms of equipment such as cookers, microwaves, graters, saucepans, and rolling pins.
- Multicultural aspects of food are explored through other subjects such as learning about the food eaten by families in India in Geography.
- Visitors are welcomed into school to help support aspects of food learning and teaching. This has included visits from a dietician, cookery demonstrations, visits from representatives from supermarkets to do food and fruit tasting and a dentist.
- Food choices made by individuals for moral or ethical reasons such as being a vegetarian are looked at in some PSHE topics.

5.2 Food Safety

- As part of the Science, PSHE and DT curriculum children are taught about the importance of hygiene particularly relating to food preparation. In science they are taught about micro-organisms and the spread of disease in the kitchen, suitable conditions for food storage and the importance of hand washing. In PSHE children are taught about personal cleanliness and hygiene. In DT children are guided in hygienic ways to prepare food such as the importance of clean surfaces.
- When food is prepared by children in school as part of their learning teachers and teaching assistants take suitable precautions to ensure that principles of good hygiene are followed. Four members of staff have attended food hygiene and preparation training.
- Parents / carers are asked to inform the school about any allergies to food that their child might have. This information is obtained in the annual medical needs questionnaire. Teachers are made aware of these in the register and these are taken into account when food preparation /tasting activities take place. If children are unable to eat certain types of food alternatives are provided. If a child has a particularly serious allergy to a certain food e.g. peanut allergy resulting in

anaphylactic shock, all adults in the school are made aware of this and suitable precautions are taken.

- Children who have particular medical conditions such as diabetes have their needs met e.g. they are allowed to consume chocolate when experiencing a blood sugar low.

5.3 Growing Food

- Our Eco Committee has established a growing garden, in which each class has a plot and has the opportunity to grow their own fruit and vegetables. Children have had the opportunity to grow and then taste their own beans, strawberries, herbs, tomatoes and potatoes for example.
- We believe it is important that children understand where different types of food come from. Our growing garden does this, as does our geography curriculum which includes developing children's understanding of where different foods come from and how they are farmed.

5.4 Extra Curricular Activities

- An after school cooking club runs for Year 4.
- Our PTFA hosts a number of events for children in which food is served to the children or is available for purchase. At these events sweets are sold but children are limited in what they are able to purchase. Drinks served are always low in sugar and free from additives and water is also available.
- Children sometimes wish to hand out sweets if it is their birthday or that they have brought back from holiday. They are told that this is an occasional treat.
- The school does operate a number of extra-curricular clubs and children are able to access drinking water at these clubs. Sometimes they will be encouraged to bring a healthy snack / piece of fruit as an energy boost between the end of the school day and the start of the club.
- The school runs Saturday morning cooking workshops for children in Year R, 1 and 2 and their dads (or other family members) three times a year.

6. School Ethos, Environment and Organisation:

Our school recognises:

- the importance of lunchtime organisation on the behaviour of pupils.
- the value of promoting social skills within the dining room.

6.1 Dining Hall Environment

- Our school hall is used for the eating of school meals and packed lunches, and this is where our kitchen is located. In order to accommodate all children we operate three sittings; one for lower school, one for middle school and one for upper school. The dining hall is therefore used for dining between 11.30 am and 1.00 pm.
- Children are supervised at lunchtimes by the midday supervisors. This is a regular team of supervisors who work in the hall.

- Midday supervisors are line managed by Michelle Taylor who provides a daily point of contact. Michelle has regular meetings with members of the SMT to discuss any issues.
- Our serving hatch is decorated with information posters about healthy living which are changed on a regular basis, and menus are displayed.
- Our dining hall has a pirate theme in order to promote a positive dining experience for the children. We operate a top table system to encourage children to have good manners and sociable dining habits.

6.2 Support for Children in the Dining Hall

- Teachers, caterers and lunchtime supervisors work together to create a good dining room ambience and the development of appropriate table manners.
- Midday supervisors assist younger children with their food e.g. opening drinks.
- If midday supervisors become aware of children who are repeatedly not eating their lunch, this is reported to the class teacher. Likewise teachers let lunchtime staff know if any particular child is experiencing difficulties with eating. Sometimes sticker charts are used to record what certain children are eating if they have been particular problems. These are shared with parents / carers.
- Reception children are integrated into the dining hall gradually as we are aware that it can be quite noisy due to the poor acoustics.
- As part of the year 6 PSHE unit 'Moving On' children discuss the differences in secondary schools and cash cafeteria systems in order to ensure a smooth transition.

7. The Role of Parents / carers

- All new parents / carers are given information leaflets about break time snacks, the schools fruit and vegetable scheme for infants, Universal Infant Free School Meals.
- Information about school catering is provided in school newsletters and menus are sent out to parents / carers.
- Feedback from parents / carers is invited in newsletters.
- Parents' workshops are arranged on topics such as healthy lunchboxes.
- Information leaflets are sent out to parents / carers on a range of food related issues such as drinking water and eating 5 A day.
- Parents / carers of Reception children are invited into school to have lunch with their children in the summer term before they join school.

8. The Role of Other Members of the Community

- The school nurse can be accessed through the school to support parents / carers with food related concerns, such as over or under eating.

9. Staff Development

- Staff are supported in delivering aspects connected with food in the curriculum by relevant subject coordinators and by the Healthy Schools Coordinator (Jill Talbot).

- Relevant training is attended by staff as defined by school priorities. This has included food hygiene training and training for staff in using the 'Food in Schools Toolkit'
- Training is provided for Midday Supervisors as and when required.

10. Monitoring and Evaluating

- This policy is formally reviewed by the Strategy Group on behalf of the Governing Body every two years. The policy review takes into consideration the views of all stakeholders including school staff, governors, parents / carers and pupils.
- This policy is available to all stakeholders.

11. Children in Care (previously known as Looked After Children)

Godinton Primary will ensure that the food and drink needs of Children in Care (CIC) are met.

12. Equal Opportunities

Godinton Primary School treats all members of the school community fairly and equally. This policy should be read in conjunction with the School's policy for Equal Opportunities.