

School Food Policy

Yew Tree Primary School



Date of Policy:	November 2025
Responsibility:	Healthy Schools Leader
Review Date:	November 2028
Consultation:	This guidance was developed following consultation with staff, parents/carers and governors.

ETHOS STATEMENT

It is the aim of the Governing Body of Yew Tree Primary School to develop policies and procedures which support the school's vision of:

“Learning Without Limits”

INTRODUCTION

The school is dedicated to providing an environment which promotes healthy eating and enables pupils to make informed choices about the food they eat. Ensuring children are healthy is a key part of our vision for Yew Tree children. This will be supported by the whole school approach to food and nutrition documented in this Food Policy.

This policy has been written following advice, information and guidelines from the following sources:

The Standards for School Food in England.

- www.gov.uk/government/publications/standards-for-school-food-in-england
- www.schoolfoodplan.com/actions/school-food

Food allergen labelling and information requirements under the EU Food Information for consumers.

- www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/food-allergen-labelling-technical-guidance.pdf
- www.bda.uk.com/foodfacts/DietBehaviourLearningChildren.pdf
- Allergy Safety in Schools

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- To ensure that all aspects of food and nutrition promote and support the health and well-being of pupils and staff and meet the mandatory standards for school lunches and food served throughout the school day.

- To equip pupils with the skills, attitudes and knowledge to enable them to make informed choices about food throughout their lives.
- To ensure equal access to healthy food and drink and appropriate nutritional education.
- To make eating at lunchtimes an enjoyable and safe experience.
- To promote practices within the school that support these aims and to work to reduce practices that negate them

GUIDELINES

Snacks Provision

The school recognises that snacks provide important part of the diet of young people and can contribute positively towards a balanced diet.

- All children in infants (Nursery – Y2) are offered a fruit or vegetable snack at morning break as part of the 'Fruit in Schools Scheme'. They are encouraged to try the different fruits and vegetables available.
- All children in Juniors (Y3 – Y6) are allowed to bring in a single healthy snack item, e.g. fruit, cereal bar etc. They are not allowed crisps, chocolate and sugary snacks for their playtime snack. However, they also have access to a daily Tuck Shop, provided by Dolce, and can purchase items by adding money to their online account.
- Children may bring their own fruit or vegetable snack for morning break. Other snacks are not permitted.
- There will be a tuck shop available at break time for Years 3-6 which will serve healthy food and drinks.
- Milk can be ordered for any child in the school (by speaking to the admin team) and is provided for EYFS children (aged 5 and under) free of charge.
- Although water is encouraged, children are permitted a low-sugar cordial drink or similar at breaktimes and lunchtimes only. During lesson time, only water is permitted.

Water

- The Food Based Standards recommend that drinking water should be available to all pupils, every day, and free of charge. The school agrees with this recommendation and encourages children to stay hydrated. Pupils are expected to have a water bottle in school and take it home regularly to be cleaned.

Lunch Provision

The school encourages pupils to access school meals, as this is a balanced nutritional meal, which meets the **National Standards for School Food**.

- Both the school and the caterers monitor school meals. The school provides menus termly.
- Staff on lunch duty encourage children, when they are eating their lunch, to make healthy choices and praise those who have.
- Newsletters are used to remind parents of the need for a nutritious packed lunch and guidance is given as to what this could contain.
- Any food containing nuts or nut traces is discouraged in school and a blanket ban may be applied if the school has a child or children with a severe allergy to nuts.
- A member of the Senior Leadership Team is on duty in the dining room each day to ensure that the eating environment is safe and positive for all.

CATERING PROVIDERS

The school engages with a third party catering company to manage the school kitchens. To operate on school premises, mobile caterers must demonstrate that staff have undergone appropriate food hygiene training; that their facilities meet appropriate food safety requirements; and that they meet National standards.

PACKED LUNCHES

Packed lunches prepared by the school caterers adhere to the National School Food Standards. The school encourages parents/carers to provide children with packed lunches that complement these standards. This is achieved by promoting healthy packed lunch options using the principles of the “eat-well” plate (see Packed Lunch Guidance for details).

SPECIAL DIETS & ALLERGIES:

The school should be made aware of any food allergies or intolerances as it has procedures in place to manage these in school (even if your child has a packed lunch). Any food allergies and other special dietary requirements can be accommodated within school and should be updated on School Grid.

The school complies with the latest DfE guidance regarding allergy safety in schools and full details of this are available in a separate policy. However, to support this work, **children are not allowed to share food.**

FOOD SAFETY

Guidelines are followed to ensure the food provided by schools and caterers reflect allergen information and list ingredients in recipes. By making sure staff follow standard recipes, have a process in place to update ingredients and allergen information when products are changed or reformulated, and cross-contamination is avoided with good hygiene (effective cleaning practices) as well as separation and labelling of ingredients.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES & INCLUSION

In healthy eating, as in all other areas of the curriculum, we recognise the value of the individual and strive to provide equality opportunity for. Therefore, we work to meet all special dietary requirements by aiming.

- To ensure that there is appropriate food provision which children can eat regardless of the ethical, religious and medical requirements of the school community.
- To celebrate special occasions at Yew Tree Primary School by agreeing with pupils and parents how that occasion should be celebrated.
- To make sure that pupils entitled to free meals are not identifiable by their peers.

CURRICULUM & TEACHING

The school will provide access to healthy eating and practical cooking education in line with the National Curriculum Guidelines. Teachers, caterers and other staff have a key role in influencing pupils' knowledge, skills and attitudes about food, so it is important that they are well trained and up-to-date with information about health and well-being.