
Croughton All Saints CE Primary School

Healthy Eating Policy

November 2025



At Croughton School, we all belong as part of God's family. We foster each child's unique skills ensuring we are an inclusive and diverse community where each child feels safe and has a love of learning. We prepare children for their next journey in education and as global citizens by being respectfully curious, determined, resilient and kind.

'How wonderful, how pleasing it is when all God's people come together as one.'

(Psalm 133:1)

Reviewed by	Approved by	Date Approved	Next Review Date
S.Smith Headteacher H.Curtis PSHE Lead	FGB	November 2025	November 2027

Introduction

In our school we believe that proper nutrition and fluid intake are essential to all members of the school community. We believe that all messages about food and drink within school should be consistent in encouraging everyone to establish and/or maintain life-long healthy eating and drinking habits, enabling pupils to make informed choices about the food they eat.

Rationale

Through effective leadership, the school ethos and the curriculum, all staff can bring together elements of the school day to create an environment which supports a healthy lifestyle. All members of the school community need to be aware that healthy eating and a balanced diet is, to some, a sensitive issue. We need to be mindful of the fact that children may be exposed to and aware of negative food issues and the associated emotional and psychological effects. The nutritional principles of this policy are based on current evidence based findings; and the 'Eatwell plate' is the agreed model for ensuring a healthy balanced diet.

Aims

- To ensure we are giving consistent messages about food, health and wellbeing for a healthier child
- To provide cross- curricular education which enables all pupils to make informed choices
- To involve the whole community in developing and maintaining healthy eating and drinking habits
- To encourage a balanced and nutritious diet
- To offer milk & water to children every day
- To offer a selection of fruit to all children every day
- To encourage fluid intake with an easily accessible water supply throughout the day
- To integrate healthy eating and drinking habits in all aspects of school life
- To take into account and accommodate dietary requirements
- To ensure high standards of hygiene amongst the children
- To develop healthy eating habits that will last a lifetime

Legislation and documentation

School food standards practical guide - Updated 13 February 2025

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-food-standards-resources-for-schools/school-food-standards-practical-guide>

Eating in school should be a pleasurable experience. These school food standards are designed to help children develop healthy eating habits, and ensure that they have the energy and nutrition they need to get the most from their whole school day. It's important to cook food that looks good and tastes delicious.

Staff should talk to children about what is on offer, and recommend dishes, to reduce queuing time. Food should be served in a pleasant environment where children can eat with their friends.

Early Years Foundation Stage nutrition guidance
Guidance for group and school-based providers and childminders in
England

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6839b752210698b3364e86fc/Early_years_foundation_stage_nutrition_guidance.pdf

May 2025

As a general principle, it's important to provide a wide range of foods across the week. Use fresh, sustainable and locally sourced ingredients (best of all, from the school vegetable garden) and talk to the children about what they are eating. The food-based standards specify which types of food should be served at school and how often.

Catering

Meals are provided by Fresh Start Catering. Individual dietary needs are catered for within the framework of nutritional standards. All meals are cooked on site, with portion sizes being in accordance with guidelines laid down by the caterers. Children are encouraged to drink water or water based drinks with their lunch.

Breakfast

Recognising parental responsibility and school/parent partnership, children are encouraged to have breakfast before leaving home. This will be done through discussion in PSHE. The school also offers a breakfast club as part of the wrap around care and provides different breakfast options.

Morning break

All children in the school are offered a piece of fruit or a portion of vegetable from the free fruit and vegetable scheme which is Government funded. Snacks should be brought to school in a re-usable container to avoid the need for disposing of any waste packaging.

Milk or water is offered to Foundation stage children throughout the day, with children from Years 1-6 having the option of paying for milk through the Cool milk scheme.

School lunches and packed lunches

Children can bring their own packed lunch to school. We ask parents to support us in providing clear messages to the children about a balanced and nutritious diet. Items such as fizzy drinks and sweets are not permitted. We issue guidance in newsletters and on the website regarding what constitutes a balanced packed lunch and we also offer advice on portion sizes. A balanced packed lunch should contain:

- Starchy foods. These are bread, rice, potatoes and pasta and others.
- Protein foods. These are meat, fish, eggs, beans and others.
- A dairy item. This could be cheese or low sugar yoghurt.
- Vegetables or salad, and a portion of fruit.
- Water or a low sugar alternative drink

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/collections/kids_packed_lunch_ideas

Staff will encourage children to eat their lunch. If we have any concerns, the class teacher will be alerted and they will inform the parent. Any uneaten food will be sent home so parents can see what has been eaten.

The school will provide a clean, sociable environment for pupils to eat their lunch. Lunch time supervisors will help to ensure a safe, enjoyable experience and will encourage healthy eating. Food Safety Appropriate food safety precautions are taken when food is prepared or stored. These vary depending on the food on offer and include: ensuring that adequate storage and washing facilities are available; that food handlers undergo appropriate food safety and hygiene training; and that suitable equipment and protective clothing are available. Any food safety hazards are identified and controlled. Information is cascaded to everyone who is involved with food related activities in school. We have food safety information displayed in the appropriate areas.

Special dietary requirements/ Vegetarian

We recognise that some pupils may require special diets that do not allow for our food policy to be exactly met. In this case parents are asked to make us fully aware of this. Individual care plans need to be created for pupils with special dietary needs/requirements. These should document symptoms and adverse reactions, actions to be taken in an emergency, and emergency contact details, along with any particular food requirements. The school and school caterers (if appropriate) are made aware of any food allergies/food intolerance/medical diets and requests for these diets are submitted according to an agreed process.

Water for all

The National Nutritional Standards for Healthy School Lunches recommend that drinking water should be available to all pupils, every day, and free of charge. The children do not need to bring in their own water bottles. Their own named bottles are kept in classrooms and consumed during lessons throughout the day. Children are able to refill their water bottle during break time or at lunch time from taps marked as drinking water.

For medical reasons children may be allowed squash.

Wrap Around Care Provision

The food and drink provision at our breakfast and after school clubs are in line with the overall whole school food policy and comply with standards for all school food other than lunches. However they have their own guidelines and procedures by which they follow.

Teaching and Learning

Through cross-curricular learning, food and cooking activities are used in a variety of ways to teach children and widen their experience of food. They are given opportunity to touch, taste, smell and see a variety of foods. The Healthier Child

Project emphasises the link and balance between physical exercise, healthy eating and healthy mental wellbeing, therefore we teach children these facts through our DT work, class experiences and celebration events such as Diwali celebrations. Within the EYFS, children take part in regular food related activities. This is to ensure good healthy eating habits and positive relationships with a range of foods are promoted from a young age.

Parental involvement

We value the support of our parents and recognise the partnership of home and school is crucial in order to wholly support our children in being healthy citizens of the world. Parents are regularly reminded and/or updated of our policies via the school website and new parents are informed via the school prospectus.

Role of Governors

Governors will monitor the implementation and effectiveness of this policy. This policy will be reviewed every 2 years to take into account of new developments.