



Margaret Roper Catholic School Food Policy

At Margaret Roper we are committed to encouraging and developing positive attitudes towards food and a healthy diet. Promoting a healthy life style is integral to our curriculum and we recognise the importance of offering children the opportunity to make informed choices about what, when, where and why they eat. As a school we know that food is fundamental to the quality of a child's life; not just in providing essential nutrition but in communicating and sharing positive values, attitudes and experiences with each other. We believe that adults (staff, parents and carers) should be good role models and should support the children in understanding how balanced nutrition contributes to a person's health, happiness and general well-being.

This policy has been formulated to enable the school to develop and maintain a shared philosophy on all aspects of food and drink. Its key aim is to develop healthy eating and drinking activities within the school that benefit children, staff, parents and the whole school community. At Margaret Roper we recognise the important connection between a healthy, balanced diet and a child's ability to learn effectively and achieve high standards in school.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1) To improve the health of pupils, staff and the whole school community by helping to influence eating habits through increasing knowledge and awareness of food issues including what constitutes a healthy diet.
- 2) To ensure staff and volunteers are trained so that children receive a consistent message.
- 3) To ensure pupils are well nourished at school and that every pupil has access to safe, tasty and nutritious food and a safe, easily available water supply during the school day.
- 4) To ensure that packed lunches brought in from home provide the child with healthy and nutritious food that is similar to food served in school, which is now regulated by national standards.
- 5) To ensure that food provision in the school acknowledges the ethical and medical requirements of staff and pupils e.g. religious, vegetarian, medical and allergenic needs.
- 6) To introduce and promote practices within the school to reinforce these aims and to remove or discourage practices that negate them.

SCHOOL DINNERS

PACKED LUNCHES

The Food Standards Agency survey of packed lunches showed that many children's lunches contained too much sugar, salt and fat and little fruit and vegetables. At Margaret Roper we are committed to encouraging parents to provide healthy lunchboxes for children.

- 1) Pupils' lunch boxes should offer balanced nutrition. Across a week parents are encouraged to offer a variety of healthy foods.

- 2) Lunch boxes should not contain more than one of each of these foods: crisps, confectionary, chocolate bars and sweetened drinks.
- 3) Fizzy drinks and chewing gum, nuts and sweets are not allowed.
- 4) The contents of children's lunchboxes will be monitored, to ensure a balanced meal is being provided and the portion size is appropriate for the age of the child.
- 5) Children are taught not to share packed lunches and parents are reminded about the need to avoid sending in packed lunches containing nuts. Some children are allergic to nuts and a serious reaction, including breathing difficulties can occur.
- 6) Food not eaten in a packed lunch will be taken home by the child to ensure that parents know what their child has or has not eaten.
- 7) At special events such as Christmas parties or school discos, food contributes to a sense of celebration and sharing. On these occasions party food may be allowed, but the staff will remind the children that this is an "occasional" treat and not "every day food". Details of such events will be shared with parents through letters and the schools weekly newsletter.
- 8) The school community is aware of the possibility of food allergies within the school population, particularly nut allergies. Parents or carers of children who are on special diets for medical or religious reasons, or who have allergies, will be asked to provide as much information as possible about which foods are suitable or foods which must be avoided. Detailed notes and photographs of children with food allergies are circulated to all staff including lunchtime staff.

DINING ENVIRONMENT

At Margaret Roper we are committed to providing a welcoming eating environment that encourages the positive social and cultural interaction of children. The school will aim to provide a calm, ordered environment conducive to good behaviour and mutual respect.

- 1) The dining room is well staffed with lunchtime supervisors and older pupils who assist the children in a variety of ways such as opening yogurt lids, opening containers, keeping table surfaces clean and tidy and clearing trays.
- 2) Children will be encouraged to develop good eating skills and table manners at lunch time and will be given plenty of time to eat. They will also be encouraged to eat their sandwiches and savory things first.
- 3) Children will be encouraged to try a wide range of foods at lunchtimes to develop a taste for a greater variety of foods and achieve a balanced diet.
- 4) Children will be required to enter and leave the dining hall in an orderly way; to show respect for other diners.
- 5) Parents or carers will be advised if their child is not eating well.
- 6) The children will be encouraged to demonstrate good manners in the hall e.g. using quiet partner voices and saying "please" and "thank you".
- 7) The children will seek permission from a Lunchtime Supervisor before leaving the table and they will be encouraged to eat the food they have been provided with.

CURRICULUM

- 1) We regard healthy eating and healthy lifestyle education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum.
- 2) Assemblies (one per term) to offer an opportunity to explore health and food related issues.
- 3) Healthy eating education forms an important part of our school's curriculum. The importance of balanced nutrition and healthy food choices is explicitly taught through the Science, Design and Technology and PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) curriculum.
- 4) All children have the opportunity to learn about safe food preparation and to learn about where food has come from. Children learn about the requirements for plant growth, the food chain, healthy lifestyles (exercise, sleep and the components of a healthy diet) and its effect on the human body through the Science curriculum.

SNACKS

- 1) Children in KS1 will benefit from the Government's Fruit and Vegetables Scheme. These children will be encouraged to eat their piece of fruit or vegetable as part of their daily snack time.
- 2) To ensure consistency across the school KS2 children will also be encouraged to eat fruit or vegetables at break time that they bring in from home.
- 3) Children in KS1 are able to purchase milk from Cool (if they are under 5 years old the milk is free of charge), which they can also drink at break times.
- 4) All children are encouraged to bring in a water bottle so they can have access to water throughout the day. It has been recognised that drinking plenty of water improves behaviour and concentration.

MONITORING AND EVALUATING

- 1) The governing body is responsible for monitoring the healthy eating policy. The governors support the Headship team in following guidelines from external agencies and will adapt and change the policy as required.
- 2) The effective implementation of this policy will be monitored by the Headship team and the Governing Body.
- 3) The policy will be evaluated after 12 months through a survey of the views of the whole school community, particularly the views of pupils. This will take place through assemblies, in class discussion and school council.