

# ALEXANDRA INFANTS' SCHOOL

## Policy on Food

### 1 Introduction

1.1 We are committed to ensuring that the children in our care grow into healthy adults, this being the first of the five principal requirements of the Children Act 2004 ('Every Child Matters'), i.e. that they:

- be healthy;
- stay safe;
- enjoy and achieve;
- make a positive contribution;
- achieve economic well-being.

1.2 Consequently, this school does its utmost to teach children the key points about living a healthy life, including the importance of eating healthy food. We have achieved National Healthy Schools status, and our Whole-School Food Policy is designed to contribute a vital element to our strategy of creating a school environment in which children can thrive. We believe that it is only through a whole-school approach that the key messages about food and drink can be really effectively conveyed. This document sets out our policy on this.

### 2 Aims and objectives

- To help children know and understand the importance of food and drink in a healthy lifestyle.
- To help children learn what healthy food is.
- To give children the skills they need to make the right choices with regard to food and drink.
- To promote the physical and emotional well-being of all our children.

### 3 The curriculum

3.1 We will plan explicit teaching about healthy eating in our formal curriculum. For example, we will teach children about the preparation and cooking of healthy food in design technology activities, while in geography lessons, children will learn where food comes from and how it reaches the shops. In science, we will teach about nutrition and the needs of a healthy body. Through mathematics, we will teach children to measure and calculate size and weight. In Literacy, we will provide opportunities for

children to discuss, read and write about health-related issues, such as GM foods, and why some parts of the world have a surplus of food, while other parts have famine. In religious education, children will learn about how food is valued in different societies, and the part food plays in religious custom and practice. In physical education, children will have the opportunity to learn how their body reacts to exercise, and the importance of food and drink to participation in sport and dance. In PSHE, children will have the opportunity to reflect on food-related issues such as how we can enjoy treats without damaging our bodies.

- 3.2 We will also promote healthy eating through the informal curriculum. For example, we will promote healthy eating regularly in assemblies. We will encourage children to participate in school clubs and sports, and so learn the enjoyment of a healthy lifestyle. We provide opportunities for children to explore the natural world and exploit our school site in the interest of the children's physical and emotional development through playground activities.

#### **4 The school environment**

- 4.1 We will ensure that our school environment promotes healthy eating.
- 4.2 We will encourage children to drink plenty of water by providing open access to cooled water, and regular opportunities to drink water throughout the day.
- 4.3 We participate in the "free fruit for schools" scheme which is extended to include all of our Foundation Stage children.

#### **5 School lunches**

- 5.1 We serve only healthy food and drink for our school lunches. The lunches are prepared by the Local Authority and there are stringent guidelines regarding the provision of healthy, balanced meals. Due to the large number of muslim children in school a vegetarian or halal option is available each day and vegetables and fruit are always available. All lunches have a balanced nutritional value.
- 5.2 The parents or carers of children who bring packed lunches are made aware of our healthy-school policy, and given clear guidance about what should be included in a healthy packed lunch.

#### **6 Role of parents and carers**

- 6.1 We endeavour to work closely with parents and carers to ensure that the messages about food and drink we give in school are reinforced and supported at home.
- 6.2 We expect all parents and carers who send their children to our school to respect our healthy food policy and to support it fully through the food they give their children to bring to school.

6.3 We hold parent meetings for parents of new children each year to explain to parents and carers the importance we place on healthy eating, and why we endorse this policy.

## **7 Monitoring and review**

7.1 The governing body will monitor this policy to ensure that our children are taught the importance of healthy eating. It will be reviewed on a regular basis, and at least once every two years.

Linda Pennington

January 2015

Next Review due January 2017