

Valour Multi Academy Trust



Food Policy

January 2025

Healthy Eating Policy

Introduction

As a Health Promoting School, Beech Hill is committed to encouraging and developing positive attitudes towards food and a healthy diet. In accordance with the Every Child Matters agenda and "Help children achieve More" guidance, supporting the 5 outcomes for children and 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.

1. Aims and Objectives

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 To ensure that food provision in the school acknowledges the ethical and medical requirements of staff and pupils e.g. religious, vegetarian, vegan, medical and allergenic needs.
- 1.4 To introduce and promote practices within the school to reinforce these aims and to remove or discourage practices that negate them

2. Organisation - Curriculum

2.1 We regard healthy eating 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.

2.2 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, D.T. and PSHE curriculum.

2.3 All pupils have the opportunity to learn about safe food preparation and to learn about where food has come from. Pupils learn about the requirements for plant growth, the food chain and the components of a healthy diet through the Science curriculum.

3. Organisation – Management of Eating

At Beech Hill, we have agreed the following statements:

- 3.1 Pupils in KS1 will benefit from the free Fruit and Vegetables Scheme. These pupils will be encouraged to eat their piece of fruit as part of their daily break time.
- 3.2 To ensure consistency across the school KS2 children will also be encouraged to eat fruit or vegetables at break time. KS2 children also benefit from the free scheme when supplies allow.

3.3 All children are encouraged to bring in a water bottle so they can have access to plain water throughout the day. Fizzy or flavoured water is not allowed in school due to the additives and flavourings. Exception to this may be allowed after prior discussion with a parent/carer of a child with sensory needs.

3.4 Chocolate, sweets, biscuits, crisps, and cakes are actively discouraged as everyday snacks in school or as part of lunch boxes. Chewing gum and fizzy drinks are not permitted on the school premises or while the children are representing the school. Cereal bars are also discouraged in favour of fruit and vegetables too because these can often contain as much sugar as chocolate bars.

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

3.6 Birthdays, and special events such as Christmas parties in class are times where food contributes to a sense of celebration and sharing. On these occasions foods other than fruit or vegetables may be offered, but the staff will remind the children that this is an "occasional" treat and not "every day food".

3.7 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. This information will be displayed in the staff office and in the school kitchen.

4. School Meals

4.1 The hot meals service is offered through City Cuisine. We work closely with the school cook and City Cuisine. Each day a choice of salads and fresh fruit are offered as possible choices. There are strict guidelines determining the meals that are available through the course of the week and these are in accordance with the "Healthy Food Standards in Schools".

4.2 The weekly school lunch menu is displayed on the website. This is available for parents and children to discuss meal choices.

4.3 The head teacher or deputy head teachers monitor the quality of the meals on a regular basis and may draw upon pupil voice too.

5. The role of Parents:

The school is aware that the primary role model in children's healthy eating education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supportive relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we will:

- Inform parents about the school healthy eating education policy and practice;
- Encourage parents to share their views about school policy and potentially making modifications to it as necessary in response.

Reviewed: Jan 2025

Next review: Jan 2026

