



Food Policy

Date: October 2018

Revision Date and Frequency: October 2020 (every 2 years)

Distributed to Staff: November 2018

Lead Person(s): A. Matthey (PSHE Lead)

Ratification by: FGB (18th October 2018)

Statutory Document: No

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Our school vision

At Burdett-Coutts, we encourage our learners to be ambitious for themselves and for others. We challenge and support them in questioning the world and in finding solutions. Our Christian values of friendship, compassion and service underpin our ethos:

"I can do all things through Him who gives me strength".

We want our learners to be ready to learn, to be respectful of each other and to feel safe.

How this policy enables the school to fulfil the vision

Schools have a major influence on children's knowledge and understanding of health and nutrition and have a key role to play in helping children to adopt healthy eating behaviour. They can help to minimise the risk of disease and other problems that may be associated with a poor diet, including hyperactivity and poor concentration.

Unhealthy diets, which include too many fatty foods, too much salt and sugar, and not enough vegetables and fruit, are linked to the risk of heart disease, stroke and some cancers. We are aware that some children are overweight and we are determined to play our part in keeping this number to a minimum.

We believe that by promoting a varied and balanced diet, essential for the proper growth and development of children and for protection against illness, we will be helping our children to improve their concentration and fulfil their potential both inside and outside school as well as keeping them safe. Healthy eating habits established early in life are more likely to be sustained long term.

We have already achieved Bronze and Silver 'Healthy Schools' awards which acknowledge our efforts to promote healthy eating in our school community.



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Aims and objectives

Obesity is a major health concern in Britain today and affects a sizable number of children in our school. Our objective is, by educating the children about nutrition, to provide them with the ability to make healthy food choices. We aim to:

- ensure that children have a healthy midday meal by maintaining the high quality of the catering and general lunchtime experience;
- involve the catering staff in talking to the children about the food they prepare, to get the children more engaged in the food they eat at school;
- have a consistent and co-ordinated approach to teaching and learning about food;
- ensure that appropriate messages about food and nutrition are reinforced and that the whole school is engaged in promoting healthy eating.

All Reception and KS1 children are now entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals. We strongly encourage all those entitled to FSMs in KS2 to take them.

Food in school

We promote the message that there are no 'bad' foods, but that some foods should only be eaten sometimes. Our children cook and work with food as part of the Science, DT and PSHE curriculum and Years 1 and 4 work with Mytime Active to develop better eating habits. Good hygiene is always stressed and reinforced in these sessions.

Children learn about the cultural dimensions of food when they cook during their Enrichment sessions (KS2) or when learning through their connector topics (KS1 and Foundation Stage).

We are very aware that some people suffer from nut allergies but recognise that it is not possible to completely eradicate all traces of nuts from the school site. Children are taught that nuts are an important part of their diet but that they are extremely dangerous for some people.

We endeavour to ensure that nuts and products containing nuts (eg. biscuits, cakes and spreads) are not brought on site. This includes for consumption at lunchtimes, class parties, school events and extra-curricular activities (but not when the hall is hired for private occasions).

We discourage children from bringing sweets and fizzy drinks into school and do not use sweets as rewards; children are rewarded with stickers and certificates.

Class teachers monitor the amount of cakes given out in their class for children's birthdays (only one treat per child).

Each class holds a cake sale at some point during the year. These events are intended to engage children in raising money for class activities and resources, or for charity.



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School meals provision

We are committed to ensuring that healthy food and drink options are available and promoted throughout the school and to ensuring that the school-based food Standards for school lunches are adhered to.

Whilst promoting our view that 'no foods are bad foods', we encourage children to eat healthier options to maintain a balanced diet.

Meal supervisors (MSAs) and School Council encourage children to try the fruit and vegetables on offer.

From time to time the children are consulted, through the School Council, about the lunchtime menu. Their views are passed on to Chartwells, our catering provider.

Special dietary needs

Together with Chartwells, we are committed to providing alternative food for pupils with medically proven food allergies. Parents/carers must inform the school of any food allergies in writing and provide evidence, eg. letter from GP or hospital.

First aid procedures, in the event of a child being taken ill due to a food allergy, are referred to in the Health and Safety policy.

If staff have any concerns relating to a pupil's health and eating habits, such as over-weight pupils or those not eating, the matter is discussed with the parents/ carers. The Inclusion Manager will also refer all concerns to the school nurse.

Healthy eating in the curriculum

The Science, Design & Technology and PSHE subject leaders monitor and evaluate learning and teaching and the curriculum content of the medium-term plans, children's work, assessments and assemblies to ensure that children:

- develop an understanding of the importance of a balanced diet and the consumption of vegetables and fruit (using the 'Balance of Good Health' model);
- develop an understanding of the need to avoid over consumption of foods high in salt, sugar and fat;
- have an understanding of food hygiene and safety;
- have opportunities to be able to plan and prepare balanced nutritious meals (wherever possible using fresh food rather than ready mix products);



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- gain an understanding about food production, where food comes from, sustainability and the idea of Fairtrade;
- take part in growing food such as lettuces, radishes and soft fruit in the garden (at certain points in the year, some of this produce will be harvested by children and served in class or as part of their school meals).

Sustainability

This policy is closely linked to the government's 'Sustainable Schools' guidelines on how schools can achieve the long-term goal of sustainability.

In order to develop aspects of sustainability and Fairtrade within the school an Eco Team, comprising both children and adults, has been established to help oversee green issues in the school.

Governors, teachers and parents have developed and now maintain our school garden. The children help to grow and harvest the produce which is either eaten at school or sold at Fairs to provide funds for the garden.

Healthy eating initiatives

At Burdett-Coutts, we promote healthy eating attitudes through the following initiatives:

a. Fruit and vegetable scheme (primary)

We provide all children with fruit and vegetables

b. Eating environment

We have taken steps to make our hall a welcoming environment in which to have lunch and displays are prevalent that affirm good manners, positive social interaction and encourage healthy eating.

c. Water provision

Sufficient hydration is essential for effective learning. Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school every day and to drink water regularly throughout the day. There is a water dispenser in the staff room; internal drinking fountains on every floor and two drinking fountains in the playground.

d. Packed lunches

The lunchtime team monitor the content of packed lunches and relay any concerns about inappropriate food to staff and parents.



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e. Healthy Schools Week

The school holds a Healthy Schools Week in which we encourage children to participate in activities that benefit their health. Healthy food messages are promoted strongly during this week.

Training

As well as all our catering staff, two members of our teaching staff hold Food Hygiene Preparation certificates.

Monitoring and review

We seek the views of pupils, parents and staff through discussion and surveys and monitor the uptake of school meals, food choices, packed lunches and the healthy eating curriculum.

The SLT, Chartwells, Catering Team and PSHE subject leader are responsible for ensuring that this policy is implemented and maintained.

It is the responsibility of the Full Governing Body to ensure that this policy is monitored and reviewed every three years or sooner if the need arises.

Glossary

Abbreviation	Meaning
DT	Design Technology
FSM	Free School Meals
GB	Governing Body
KS	Key Stage
LA	Local Authority
PSHE	Personal, Social and Health Education
SLT	Senior Leadership Team
MSA	Meal Supervisory Assistance

Date of Policy: October 2018

Policy ratified: (Signature) (Date)

Review Date: October 2020