



St. Patrick's R.C. Primary School



Whole School Food Policy		
Date	Review Date	Coordinator
September 2018	September 2019	M Ryan

Introduction

In our school we are committed to giving all our pupils consistent messages about all aspects of health to help them understand the impact of particular behaviours, and encourage them to take responsibility for the choices they make. This policy should be read alongside the school's PSHCE, drug, sex and relationship and Healthy Living policies.

The school supports the '5-A-DAY' campaign to encourage children to eat five portions of fruit and vegetables a day, which has been shown to reduce the onset of certain life-threatening conditions, as well as being helpful in tackling and preventing childhood obesity.

We have used the following approach to identify what areas we need to change to develop a more healthy approach to the issue of food in our school:

How well are we doing?

How well should we be doing?

What more should we aim to achieve? What must we do to make it happen?

What action should we take and how do we review progress?

Rationale

St Patrick's Primary is a healthy school (Healthy School Status achieved and reviewed annually) It is important that we consider all elements of our work to ensure that we promote health awareness in all members of the school community. We can provide a valuable role model to pupils and their families with regard to food and healthy-eating patterns.

Through effective leadership, the school ethos and the curriculum, all school staff can bring together all elements of the school day to create an environment which supports a healthy lifestyle.

Aims and Objectives

To ensure that we are giving consistent messages about food and health

To give our pupils the information they need to make healthy choices To promote health awareness

To contribute to the healthy physical development of all members of our school community

To encourage all children to take part in the '5-A-DAY' campaign

Settings for food policy

(We do not use vending machines in our school. Currently we do not run a tuck shop but if we decide to do so in the future, the food policy will be applied to all items sold.)

Breakfast club

The breakfast club operates on a daily basis in the school for all children including Nursery. We target some children who we know have little or no time for breakfast in the mornings at home.

The food offered is healthy and is consistent with a healthy diet. We provide toast, bread, milk and cereal.

Snacks

All our under-5s are entitled to free milk which is organised by the nursery teacher. All FS and KS1 classes include a morning break time snack of cut and washed fruit to all children, which is shared in a family setting for all class members. Children are given responsibility for passing the fruit to others and for helping to clear away. We are hoping to develop this by taking part in the new Government initiative to provide all infants with free fruit and vegetables during the day, which will mean the snack can also be offered at afternoon play. KS 2 children bring fruit which they eat at playtime – no other snack is allowed during break.

School lunches and packed lunches

All our school meals are provided by on-site cook and kitchen team. Where possible, this includes the use of fresh fruit and vegetables each day as a choice for the children. They provide a hot and cold option, both of which pay regard to nutritional balance and healthy options.

Many children bring a packed lunch to school. We regularly include newsletter items offering advice about the contents of these and we do not allow sweets, chocolate bars (although we do allow chocolate covered biscuits at present) or fizzy drinks.

New initiative started in October 2009 'Lively Lunchtime Crew' Teams from Y5/6 operate a rota system. The teams coordinate organised games in KS/1 and KS/2 and operate a 'Clean Plate' award and 'Meal of the Week' The cook and Lunch time Supervisers are all involved in this process.

Water for all

Cooled water is freely available throughout the school day to all members of the school community. No water fountains are located inside toilet blocks. Every child is expected to have a bottle to store their water in. Children may drink their water at any time except during the 15-minute assembly. FS and KS 1 children are also reminded to drink water at their snack time.

Food across the Curriculum

In FS, KS 1 and KS 2, there are a number of opportunities for pupils to develop knowledge and understanding of health, including healthy-eating patterns and practical skills that are needed to understand where food comes from such as shopping, preparing and cooking food.

Literacy provides children with the opportunity to explore poetry, persuasion, argument and narrative work using food and food-related issues as a stimulus, e.g. writing to a company to persuade them to use non-GM foods in children's food and drink etc.

Maths can offer the possibility of understanding nutrition labelling, calculating quantities for recipes, weighing and measuring ingredients.

Science provides an opportunity to learn about the types of food available, their nutritional composition, digestion and the function of different nutrients in contributing to health, and how the body responds to exercise.

RE provides the opportunity to discuss the role of certain foods in the major religions of the world. Children experience different foods associated with religious festivals.

ICT can afford pupils the opportunity to research food issues using the internet and other electronic resources. Pupils design packaging and adverts to promote healthy food choices.

Food Technology as part of DT provides the opportunity to learn about where food comes from and apply healthy-eating messages through practical work with food, including preparation and cooking.

PSHE encourages young people to take responsibility for their own health and well-being, teaches them how to develop a healthy lifestyle and addresses issues such as body image. Pupils are able to discuss issues of interest to young people, e.g. advertising and sustainable development.

Music can provide pupils with knowledge about different properties of cooked and uncooked foods where pulses and grains are used in unpitched percussion instruments.

Geography provides a focus on the natural world and changing environment, offering the chance to consider the impact our consumer choices have on people across the world who rely on growing food as their source of income.

History provides insight into changes in diet and food over time.

Physical Education provides pupils with the opportunity to develop physically and to understand the practical impact of sport, exercise and other physical activity such as dance and walking.

School visits provide pupils with activities to enhance their physical development, e.g. to activity centres /residential visits (Carlton Y4 & Holland Y6/ day visits

Out-of-hours learning includes cookery and gardening clubs from time to time.

Partnership with parents and carers

The partnership of home and school is critical in shaping how children and young people behave, particularly where health is concerned. Each must reinforce the other. This is not always easy but our school is well placed to lead by example. (Links with P.S.A. Mrs Hammill)

Parents and carers are regularly updated on our water and packed-lunch policies through school and class newsletters. We ask parents not to send in fizzy drinks and we remind them that only water may be drunk during the school day.

During out-of-school events, e.g. school discos etc., the school will encourage parents and carers to consider the food policy in the range of refreshments offered for sale to the children.

Role of the Governors

Governors monitor and check that the school policy is upheld and can also offer guidance where a member of the body has particular expertise in this area.

Monitoring and review

The breakfast-club manager is responsible for ensuring that the food served is in accordance with this policy. Key Stage managers and subject managers are responsible for the curriculum development of the food policy. The headteacher and PSHE manager are responsible for supporting colleagues in the delivery of the food policy. The LEA is responsible for ensuring the quality of the food offered as part of the contract with the caterer.

This policy will be reviewed annually to take account of new developments.

Headteacher:	M. Ryan	Date:	September 2018
Chair of Governing Body:	G. Wilson	Date:	September 2018