

HEALTHY LUNCHBOX POLICY



Featherstone All Saints C of E Academy

This Church of England Trust aim to serve its community by providing an excellent education for pupils of all abilities and backgrounds in the context of Christian belief and practice.

It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and requires the valuing of other faiths.

It promotes Christian values and spiritual development through the experience it offers to all its pupils,

These values are implicit in this policy.

Accepted by governors: January 2026

Date for review: January 2027

Overall aim of the policy:

To ensure that packed lunches brought from home and consumed in school (or on school trips) provide the pupil with a healthy, nutritious and balanced diet.

Why the policy was formulated:

- Improved Nutrition and Health: Ensures packed lunches are balanced and nutritious, contributing to better overall physical health and reducing risks of obesity, anemia, and constipation.
- Enhanced Learning and Behavior: Provides the necessary, sustained energy for the afternoon, which improves concentration, mood, and behavior in the classroom.
- Consistency with School Standards: Aligns packed lunches with the mandatory national nutritional standards for school meals, ensuring all children receive quality food.
- Development of Healthy Habits: Encourages children to make informed, healthy choices early in life, fostering long-term eating habits.
- Whole School Approach: Creates a consistent, pro-active environment where the entire school community supports healthy eating.
- Support for Parents: Provides clear, actionable guidelines on what to include in lunchboxes, often offering ideas for healthy, nutritious, and appetizing food.

Where, when and to whom the policy applies:

To all pupils and parents/carers providing packed lunches to be eaten within school.

Food and drink in packed lunches

The policy

- The school will provide facilities for pupils bringing in packed lunches and ensure that free, fresh drinking water is readily available at all times.
- The school will work with the pupils to provide attractive and appropriate dining room arrangements
- The school will work with parents to ensure that packed lunches abide by the standards listed below.
- As fridge space is not available in school, pupils are advised to bring packed lunches in insulated bags with freezer blocks where possible to keep the food cool.
- Children must only eat their own food and not other children's. Nut or nut products are not permitted.

Guidance

Packed lunches should include:

- at least one portion of fruit and/or vegetables every day.
- meat, fish or other source of non-dairy protein (e.g. lentils, beans, soya or hummus) every day (usually as part of a sandwich, wrap or salad).
- oily fish, such as salmon or tuna occasionally.
- a starchy food such as brown/wholemeal bread, pasta, rice, noodles, potatoes or other type of cereals every day.
- dairy food such as cheese, low fat yoghurt, fromage frais or custard.

Packed lunches could include these foods but not every day and only as part of a balanced meal.

- buns / cake bars
- plain or chocolate coated biscuits
- cereal bars/Snack-a-Jacks
- meat and pastry products such as sausage rolls or pies.
- snacks such as crisps.

Packed lunches should not include:

- Chocolate confectionery / bars and sweets.
- **No drinks of any kind in the dining room.** Fresh drinking water is provided by the school in the dining room for everyone, packed lunches and school meals. If children do require an alternative drink to fresh water, they are permitted to bring in flavoured water or dilute juice in their drinks bottle that is stored in their classroom or on their cloakroom trolley. They can access this at lunchtime on their way out to play.
- Hot soup in a flask (in case of spillages)

Nuts or nut products (although they can be healthy) because of the danger to other children with allergies.

Special Diets /Allergies

The school recognises that some pupils may have verified medical conditions requiring special diets or cultural/religious beliefs which may impact on diet. These may not allow for the standards to be met exactly. In this case parents/carers are urged to be responsible in ensuring that packed lunches are as healthy as possible

NOTE For these reasons pupils are:

- not permitted to swap food items.
- not permitted to bring nuts and nut products in packed lunchboxes.

Assessment, evaluation and reviewing:

Packed lunches are reviewed by lunchtime staff as part of their supervision of the children.

Please note:

Pupils with special diets will be given due consideration.

We rely on parents/carers to support this policy and work with the school to ensure that their children are provided with a balanced healthy lunchbox.

If a child regularly brings a packed lunch that does not conform to the policy then the school will contact the parents to discuss this.

Dissemination of the policy:

The policy will be available on the school's website and will be incorporated into the school prospectus. The school will use opportunities such as parents' evenings to promote this policy as part of a whole school approach to healthier eating.

All school staff, including teaching and catering staff, will be informed of this policy and will support its implementation.