Policy Extract

A model school food policy – a practical guide

This booklet is intended to outline the advantages to a school of adopting a food policy and to provide practical guidance on how to go about this.

1. Responsibilities.

The Board of Governors recognises the important connection between a healthy diet and a student’s ability to learn effectively and achieve high standards in school. The Board also recognises the role a school can play, as part of the larger community, to promote family health, and sustainable food and farming practices.

The Board of Governors recognises that sharing food is a fundamental experience for all people; a primary way to nurture and celebrate our cultural diversity; and an excellent bridge for building friendships, and inter-generational bonds.

2. Mission

The educational mission is to improve the health of the entire community by teaching students and families ways to establish and maintain life-long health and environmentally sustainable eating habits. The mission shall be accomplished through food education and skills (such as cooking and growing food), the food served in schools, and non-core academic content in the classroom.

3. Aims

3.1 To improve the health of pupils, staff and their families by helping to influence their eating habits through increasing their knowledge and awareness of food issues, including what constitutes a healthy and environmentally sustainable diet, and hygienic food preparation and storage methods.

3.2 To increase pupils’ knowledge of food production, manufacturing, distribution and marketing practices, and their impact on both health and the environment.

3.3 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.

3.4 To ensure that food provision in the school reflects the ethical and medical requirements of staff and pupils.

3.5 To make the provision and consumption of food an enjoyable and safe experience.

3.6 To introduce and promote practices within the school to reinforce these aims, and to remove or discourage practices that negate them.

4. Objectives

4.1 To work towards ensuring that this policy is both accepted and embraced by

- Governors
- School management
- Teachers and support staff
- Pupils
- Parents
- Food providers
The school’s wider community

4.2 To integrate these aims into all aspects of school life, in particular
- Food provision within the school
- The curriculum
- Pastoral and social activities