

General Welfare Requirement: Safeguarding and Promoting Children's Welfare

The provider must promote the good health of the children, take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection, and take appropriate action when they are ill.

Promoting health and hygiene

1.21 Food and Drink - Healthy Eating Policy

Policy statement for St Joseph's Pre-school

St Joseph's Pre-school regards snack and meal times as an important part of the Pre-school's day. Eating represents a social time for children and adults and helps children to learn about healthy eating. St Joseph's Pre-school is obligated to promote children's health and well-being, by ensuring that any food and drink provided is healthy, balanced and nutritious¹. We promote healthy eating at snack and meal times, we aim to provide nutritious food, which meets the children's individual dietary needs. No nuts or nut products are used by the setting, and we ask that parents do not include such products in the snacks they provide as part of the snack rota.

To promote healthy eating we notify parents our advice and guidance through emails and letters. We also organise a healthy eating week in July, which includes a visit from the Toothfairy!

Procedures

We follow these procedures to promote healthy eating in our setting, to comply with government initiatives and for the general well-being of the children.

- Before a child starts to attend the setting, we find out from parents their children's dietary needs and preferences, including any known allergies, see policy 1.18².
- We record information about each child's dietary needs in her/his registration record and parents sign the record to signify that it is correct.
- We regularly consult with parents to ensure that our records of their children's dietary needs - including any allergies - are up-to-date. Parents sign the up-dated record to signify that it is correct.
- We display current information about individual children's dietary needs so that all staff and volunteers are fully informed about them.
- We implement systems to ensure that children receive only food and drink that is consistent with their dietary needs and preferences as well as their parents' wishes.
- We display details of the daily snacks provided for the children, by a parent, on a noticeboard in the Pre-school foyer.
- We give guidance to parents in our information pack on snacks that parents can provide when it is their child's turn to bring in the daily snack. See Appendix 1.
- Our guidance includes a variety of foods from the four main food groups:
 - meat, fish and protein alternatives;
 - dairy foods;
 - grains, cereals and starch vegetables; and
 - fruit and vegetables.
- We introduce the children to different foods from a variety of cultural backgrounds when talking to them about festivals/faith days or it coincides with a topic the Pre-school is looking at.

¹ Early Years Foundation Stage (2017) Para 3.47 : Food and Drink

² Policy 1.18 Managing children with allergies, or who are sick or infectious (including reporting notifiable diseases)

- We take care not to provide food containing nuts or nut products and are especially vigilant where we have a child who has a known allergy to nuts. To avoid the risk of a child with a known nut allergy being exposed to nuts during lunchtime, we ask parents not to provide packed lunches that include nuts or nut products (eg. snack bars, peanut butter, pesto etc).
- Through discussion with parents and research reading by staff, we obtain information about the dietary rules of the religious groups to which children and their parents belong, and of vegetarians and vegans, and about food allergies. We take account of this information and monitor what the children eat.
- No meat or fish is provided at snack time. St Joseph's Pre-school keeps a small quantity of food separately to ensure that any child/children with an allergy or another dietary rule, are provided for.
- We require staff to show sensitivity in providing for children's diets and allergies. Staff do not use a child's diet or allergy as a label for the child or make a child feel singled out because of her/his diet or allergy.
- We organise meal and snack times so that they are social occasions in which children and staff participate.
- We use meal and snack times to help children to develop independence through making choices, serving food and drink and feeding themselves.
- In order to protect children with food allergies, we discourage children from sharing and swapping their food with one another.
- We provide children with utensils that are appropriate for their ages and stages of development and that take account of the eating practices in their cultures.
- We have fresh drinking water constantly available for the children. We inform the children about how to obtain the water and that they can ask for water at any time during the day.
- We inform parents who provide food for their children about the storage facilities available in the setting.
- We give parents who provide food for their children information about suitable containers for food.
- In order to protect children with food allergies, we discourage children from sharing and swapping their food with one another.
- For children who drink milk, we provide whole pasteurised milk.

Mid morning snacks

The Pre-school recommend that these snacks, provided by parents/carers, should include:

- fresh fruit and/or vegetables with a carbohydrate accompaniment such as wholemeal bread, crackers or bread sticks; and
- a choice of fresh milk or water is supplied to drink.

Packed lunches

Where children choose to bring in a packed lunch rather than have a cooked meal, we ask parents/carers to provide a healthy balance lunch, and:

- ensure perishable contents of packed lunches are refrigerated or contain an ice pack to keep food cool;
- inform parents of our policy on healthy eating and new parents to the pre-school;
- inform parents of whether we have facilities to microwave cooked food brought from home;
- encourage parents to provide sandwiches with a healthy filling, fruit, and milk based deserts such as yoghurt or crème fraîche where we can only provide cold food from home. We discourage sweet drinks and can provide children with water or diluted fresh fruit juice. Examples are:

- sandwiches – small in size with children’s favourite fillings (excluding peanut based fillings);
 - yoghurts or crème fraiche;
 - small portion of crisps or savoury snacks; and
 - fresh fruit and/or vegetables;
 - other suggestions: dried fruit, cold meats, pasta or rice salads, raw vegetables with dips, jellies.
- discourage packed lunch contents that consist largely of crisps, processed foods, sweet drinks and sweet products such as cakes or biscuits. We reserve the right to return this food to the parent as a last resort;
 - provide children, bringing packed lunches, with plates, cups and cutlery; and
 - ensure staff sit with children to eat their lunch so that the mealtime is a social occasion.

Legal Framework

- Regulation (EC) 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the hygiene of foodstuffs
- Food Safety Act 1990

Further guidance

- Food Standards Agency (www.food.gov.uk)
 - Safer food, better business for caterers
 - Safer food, better business for childminders

Version Number	Author	Purpose of Change	Date
1.0	K Coupe	Reviewed and page numbered	Sept 2014
2.0	Committee	Reviewed	Oct 2016
3.0	K Coupe & N Powers	Reviewed, updated – incorporate healthy eating policy - and version controlled	01/05/2019 Cttee Mtg

Appendix 1 : St Joseph’s Pre-school – snack rota ideas

When you are on snack rota we ask that you cater for a minimum of 15 children – this is the average number we have for a morning. You will be on the snack rota twice a term for majority of terms of the year due to the number of children we have vs the number of school days – where possible these days will not be too close together however sometimes they may need to be in order to make it fair for everyone. The Pre-school tries to encourage children to eat as healthily as possible³. So, to help you cater for your pre-schooler and his/her friends, outlined below are some ideas of items and quantities (this list is not exhaustive).

<p>Fruit Punnet of strawberries Punnet of blueberries Packet of grapes (red or white or a mix) 2 or 3 oranges or 4 or 5 satsumas 3 large bananas or 5 small bananas 3 apples or pears 1 pineapple 1 melon 1 mango 4 plums 4 peaches or nectarines 5 apricots Small packet of raisins and/or pumpkin seeds Small packet of dried apricots Small packet of dried bananas Small packet of dried pineapple Small packet of dried apple Small packet of dried dates Small packet of dried prunes</p>	<p>Vegetables Bag/packet of carrot sticks 1 large whole cucumber Bag/packet of cherry tomatoes Packet of baby sweetcorn Packet of sugar snap peas Packet of mange tout 1 or 2 avocados 1 or 2 peppers</p>
<p>Carbohydrates Packet/box of breadsticks Packet of pitta bread – preferably wholemeal Packet of crumpets Packet of cheese crackers Packet of whole wheat crackers Packet of rice cakes Pumpkin seeds Couple of packets of oat cakes Small fruit (bread) loaf Small malt loaf (eg. Soreen) Packet of mini bagels Packet of small or large plain or fruit muffins</p>	<p>Protein Packet of cheese – we’ll cut into cubes Pot of cream cheese Packet of cheese spread (eg. Dairylea) Pot of hummus</p>

We are not saying crisps or cakes or biscuits are not allowed, but we would like to limit the intake of these where possible. *What we would ask though, is that there are no nuts or kiwi fruits.* You can, of course, mix and match and, obviously, put things that your child likes, but please ensure that at least 2 fruit and/or vegetables are included.

Example 1:

Small bag of carrot sticks
3 large bananas
Packet of mixed grapes
Packet of crumpets

Example 2:

Packet of breadsticks
Pot of hummus
1 large whole cucumber
Punnet of blueberries

Example 3:

Small fruit (bread) loaf
Packet of cheese
Bag/packet of cherry tomatoes
3 large or 5 small bananas

We always appreciate extra snacks being provided, in addition to the main snack, especially dry goods (eg. breadsticks, raisins, apricots) which can be stored for afternoon or emergency snacks. We would like to thank you for your involvement with the snack rota. The children enjoy sharing their food with their friends.

Many thanks

St Joseph’s Pre-school Staff & Committee

³ See Policy 1.21 Food and Drink – Healthy Eating Policy