



Oswald Road Primary School

Food & Drink Policy

Policy approved by Governing Body: April 2026

To be reviewed in 3 years: April 2029

Headteacher: Deborah Howard

Chair of Governors: Peter Martin

Why is a policy needed?

At Oswald Road we recognise the important part that a balanced diet plays in a child's well-being and their ability to learn and achieve effectively. We believe that the school, in partnership with parents and carers can make a major contribution to improving children's health by increasing their knowledge and understanding of food and helping them to make well-informed choices.

UNCRC Article 24: Every child has the right to clean water, nutritious food, a clean environment and health education so that they can stay healthy.

The Rights Respecting Ambassadors led a project on this policy during academic year 2025-26.

Application

This policy covers the areas of:

- Break time snacks including those brought from home.
- Milk
- Water
- School Lunches including packed lunches
- Curriculum
- Holiday clubs
- Events and celebrations

Break time snacks

All Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children are provided daily fruit or vegetables as part of the Government scheme.

Early Years follows the Early Years Nutrition Guidance, May 2025. A range of fruit and vegetables are offered during snack time across the week, which is a designated time in the school day.

We are keen to promote a healthy attitude towards food and are aware of the increasing numbers of children with eating disorders. Our decision on break time snacks has carefully considered this, alongside the understanding that excessive consumption of

high fat, high sugar foods is also not a healthy relationship with food. We allow snacks at break time, with the exception of large bags of crisps, chocolate bars/biscuits and sweets, and if a member of teaching staff notes a sustained situation where a child is eating high fat, high sugar foods at break time then our Families and Children's Support Co-ordinator and Health lead will be informed. This will be noted on CPOMS under 'health'. They will then call the parents and discuss sensitively on the phone or via a face-to-face meeting if preferred. If a member of staff sees a child with any of the exceptions above, they will ask the child to put the snack back in their bag, without conversations around the unhealthy nature of the food. It will simply be noted that that snack is not allowed in school.

Children are aware they should not share snacks in school.

Milk

Milk is provided free for children who are under 5. Milk is available to purchase for children across school.

Water

Drinking water will be available for all pupils throughout the day and pupils will be encouraged to drink water. There is also access to water at lunchtime. Pupils are encouraged to bring a water bottle every day that they can refill as necessary.

School lunches including packed lunches

At Oswald Road all school meals will be prepared following the government nutritional guidelines. We often involve children in the design of the school dinner offer through pupil voice and our Rights Respecting Ambassadors scheme.

We provide Universal Free School Meals for children in Reception and Key Stage 1 and encourage parents to take up this offer. We are committed to providing food which is compliant with all national guidelines.

The school dinner offer for Early Years follows the Early Years Nutrition Guidance, May 2025.

Staff will work with children to provide a clean, safe and appropriate dining area. We believe that lunchtimes should foster the caring, friendly ethos that governs everything that we do. Children are encouraged to be independent during the meal and clearing up after themselves at the end by tidying their plates and cutlery away.

Some families prefer to provide a packed lunch and we are aiming for our packed lunches to be representative of a balanced diet.

Packed lunches provided for school trips as part of our Free School Meal provision and any children who are on school dinners or request packed lunch for the trips, comply with National Food Standards.

Any meals taken as part of on or off school site residential will provide a balanced approach to meals and where possible we will look to use off site providers that comply with the National Food Standards.

If a member of staff notes a sustained situation where a child is eating excessive high fat, high sugar foods at lunchtime (packed lunch) then our Families and Children's Support Co-ordinator and Health lead will be informed and they will liaise with the family.

Children are aware they should not share food in school.

Curriculum

Food, including its production and preparation, is an important part of the curriculum for all pupils and is taught across the curriculum through Science, PSHE and Design and Technology. Staff will meet all dietary and allergy needs when planning lessons that include food.

Staff follow this guidance when making food with children:

Check on Medical Tracker during lesson preparation and on the day of the lesson – filtering medical conditions, firstly for 'food allergy' to show any food allergies and what the allergies are, and then for 'coeliac'.

Children should never be excluded and this needs to be kept in mind with any planning.

Information on the school's MIS system should always also be checked for food requirements (for example: Halal, vegetarian, vegan etc)

Holiday club

School dinners are not provided at holiday club. Children bring in packed lunches and snacks. The same approach as noted above is mirrored for holiday club.

Wraparound

Food offered to our Early Years follows the Early Years Nutrition Guidance, May 2025.

Snacks offered during wraparound care (morning and after school) have been considered to ensure there is a range of fruit and no items consumed across the week are high in sugars or fats.

Events and Celebrations

We want to give children the opportunity to celebrate their birthdays but we would ask that parents and carers do not send in food. If parents want to bring something in to celebrate birthdays, we would ask that these are non-food items such as stickers or a special book for the class to share.

During parties in school (for example: end of year parties) we do offer children treat food. Staff will ensure they meet all dietary and allergy needs.

Staff follow this guidance when sharing food with children:

Check on Medical Tracker during lesson preparation and on the day of the lesson – filtering medical conditions, firstly for 'food allergy' to show any food allergies and what the allergies are, and then for 'coeliac'.

Children should never be excluded and this needs to be kept in mind with any planning.

Information on the school's MIS system should always also be checked for food requirements (for example: Halal, vegetarian, vegan etc)

