



WHOLE SCHOOL FOOD POLICY

UPDATED NOVEMBER 2010

Consultation History

Governors/staff/parents/students	Date
Executive (Leadership Group)	Nov 2010
Students Committee	Nov 2010
Full Governing Body	Nov 2010
Next Review of Policy	

The Ridgeway School & Sixth Form College

Whole School Food Policy

Rationale

The Ridgeway School and Sixth Form College recognises the impact of a healthy diet and the connection to students' performance. We also understand the role school can play, as part of the wider community to promote well being and provide every member of our school community to learn the fundamentals and importance of a balanced diet. The food and drink choices that students make at school are helpful in modelling healthier choices made outside the school environment.

Aims

The whole school food policy is also a significant aspect of a Healthy School. The Ridgeway School and Sixth Form College is committed to Every Child Matters and supports the five outcomes for all students. A whole school food policy is regarded as a key element towards ECM. We encourage all members of the school community to make balanced decisions about life style, food and exercise.

- To improve the health and well being of the school community by helping to influence their eating habits through increasing knowledge and awareness of food issues.
- To ensure that students are well nourished at school and that every one has access to nutritious and safe food with an easily available water supply during the school day.
- To establish a multi faceted approach as being the most effective in improving understanding by the whole school community including parents/carers and visitors to the school.
- To ensure that food provision in the school reflects the ethical and medical requirements of staff and students eg. Vegetarian, religious and any needs arising from allergies.
- To establish effective working partnerships through student council, governors and parent groups.
- To ensure compliance with the School Food Trust National Food Standards which became mandatory in Sept 2009
- To introduce and promote practices within school to reinforce these aims and to remove or discourage practices that negate them.

The cashless system implemented for all staff and students means that those entitled to free school meals (FSM) are not identified as different from their peers and have the same choices. We encourage the take up of FSM through Year Leaders.

Implementation

The school fully supports the implementation of the National Standards which can be found at <http://www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/the-standards>.

The school encourages students to drink water and therefore permits clear bottles with secure top lids. Some exceptions to water in lessons are accepted including the requirement to keep water away from computers and other electrical equipment.

Fizzy drinks are no longer served in school and students are discouraged from bringing such drinks into school from home.

Moral and medical needs

We recognise that for some students and staff there are both medical and moral reasons why certain foodstuffs may be in school.

- Diabetic or allergies to certain foods
- The school canteen ensures a food product is labelled to indicate the presence of nuts.
- A vegetarian option is always included in the daily selection of meals.
- Food technology is flexible and will give vegetarian recipe alternatives

The curriculum

The school seeks to implement the Whole School Food Policy within various aspects of the curriculum,

- The components of a healthy diet. Food groups
- The importance of health, healthy lifestyles and well being.
- Cost of menus. Measuring and weighing
- Food in history
- Growing food and the Green team
- Food in a multi cultural society
- Food trends
- Celebrity chefs
- Food and lifestyles in other countries and cultures

The school will promote information to all Year 7 students on healthy foods that should be included in packed meals from home.

The school cannot take legal responsibility for foods prepared at home and then brought into school.

A safe and healthy eating environment for eating school food

The school provides a clean and sociable environment, indoors and out for students to eat school food.

- Students are expected to behave whilst eating their food and be polite and helpful
- Supervisors will be around to assist students during the lunch break
- Litter should be disposed of in the bins provided.

Roles and responsibilities

- A member of the senior team oversees food provision in the school day and is line manager to the school caterers, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the policy
- Teachers and other staff are to follow the policy guidelines in delivering the curriculum and in the provision of snack and tuck.
- Staff dealing with food will be trained in the Food Hygiene in order to gain the Level 2 award.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The school catering managers will monitor and on request provide objective evidence of compliance with the Nutritional Standards through the software NUTMEG linked to the cashless till system
- The Healthy School coordinator will monitor the impact of our provision in order to be accredited for Healthy Schools.

We will continue to review our provision in relation to the needs of students, staff and visitors to The Ridgeway School and Sixth Form College. Annual reviews will incorporate parent and student views through the School council and NFER survey results.