



Parent Summary of Darlington Academy Children's Healthy Lunchbox and Snack Policy

Why

As a Healthy School, Darlington Academy is committed to encouraging and developing positive attitudes towards food and a healthy diet. Promoting a healthy lifestyle is part of our curriculum and we recognise the importance of offering pupils the opportunity to make informed choices about what, when, and where they eat. As an academy, we know that food not only provides essential nutrition but also that lunchtime experiences are important in supporting friendships and sharing positive values, attitudes and experiences with each other.

As members of the Junior Governors Team, we have been involved in designing this policy, taking ideas and information from the children that we represent. Our ideas recognise how balanced nutrition contributes to our health, happiness and general well-being.

The Junior Governors

What we want to achieve

- To improve the health of the whole school community by helping to encourage improved eating habits through better knowledge and awareness of food issues including what makes up a healthy diet.
- To ensure all pupils eat well in the academy and that they have access to safe, tasty and nutritious food and a safe, easily available water supply during the school day.
- To ensure that food in the academy acknowledges the ethical and medical needs of our community e.g. religious, vegetarian, medical and allergies. At Darlington, we have children who have allergic reactions to nuts, some of which are life threatening, and for this reason **we are a NUT FREE school.**
- To introduce and promote practices within the academy to reinforce these aims and to remove or discourage practices so that unhealthy food is not brought into the academy.

We recognise the importance of Keeping a healthy body and mind, being well and taking a mindful minute. **It's good to be green!**

Snack suggestions

We, the Junior Governors, have come together and have suggested that the following items are suitable for a healthy snack at play time. This list is not complete and many other things may be appropriate that we have not recorded below but the criteria we have suggested means that the foods are all healthy.

As an Eco-school, we also recognise the importance of snacks in natural wrappers like oranges or bananas but also shared the importance of a reusable, sustainable pot.

- Fruit: bananas, apples, grapes (halved), strawberries, mixed berries, mango slices, satsumas, pineapple sticks, orange quarters, melon slices, pomegranate, plums, peaches, fruit salad etc

- Cucumber sticks
- Pepper strips
- Broccoli
- Tomatoes
- Sweetcorn
- Sugar snap peas
- Olives
- Pickles
- Hummus and carrot sticks
- Squeezie yoghurt
- Fruit wind ups
- Fruit bars
- Dried fruit
- Banana chips
- Malt or fruit loaf
- Rice crackers
- Plain popcorn
- Hard boiled eggs
- Breadsticks and dip
- Cheese
- Cream cheese and crackers



Curriculum

We recognise education on healthy eating as a whole-school issue and we believe that teachers provide opportunities to teach us about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle, as well as good physical and mental health; these all form an important part of our academy's curriculum. They are taught through the Science, PE and RSHE Curriculums and in our Mindful Minute sessions after lunch.

Birthdays, special events and school parties in class are also times where food provides a sense of celebration and sharing. On these occasions, foods other than fruit or vegetables may be offered but we are mindful that this is an "occasional" treat and not "every day food".

Packed Lunches/treats: Chocolate, sweets, biscuits, crisps, and cakes are actively discouraged as everyday snacks in school or as part of lunch boxes. Chewing gum and fizzy and energy drinks are not permitted on the school premises or while the children are representing the academy.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy has been created by children for the whole school community. The effective implementation of this policy will be monitored by the Junior Governors and Inclusion Leader, Principal and Vice Principal. The policy will be evaluated annually taking into account the views of the whole school community, particularly those of pupils.

At Darlinghurst Academy, we like to encourage pupils to develop healthy eating habits. By providing a delicious and nutritious snack and packed lunch or by choosing school dinners for their child, parents will be helping to ensure that they experience a balanced day of learning.

Fizzy and energy drinks are not acceptable while at school.

Please save treat food for home time.