



# Barley Fields Primary School

## **Packed Lunch Parental Guidance and Policy**

<b>Date Issued:</b>	<b>October 2022</b>
<b>Prepared by:</b>	<b>Head Teacher - Reviewed September 2024 by DHT</b>
<b>Review date:</b>	<b>September 2026</b>
<b>Date Adopted by Governing Body:</b>	<b>October 2022</b>

**Aim**

To ensure that all packed lunches brought from home and consumed in school (or on school trips) provide the pupil with healthy and nutritious food that is similar to food served in schools, which is now regulated by national standards.

The policy aims to:

- To make a positive contribution to children's health and Healthy Schools Status.
- To encourage a happier and calmer population of children and young people.
- To promote consistency between packed lunches and food provided by schools which must adhere to national standards set by the government.

This policy has been formulated to help and guide parents in providing their children with a healthy nutritious lunch. We need to promote consistency between lunch boxes, being aware of the needs of not just our own children but that of others. By providing a well-balanced lunch boxes you are helping the children to be happier and calmer young people.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

The policy applies to all pupils and parents providing packed lunches to be consumed within school or on school trips during normal school hours.

**Key Expectations**

- Parents of pupils wishing to have packed lunches are expected to provide their children with lunches that conform to the guidance in this packed lunch policy.
- Parents are asked to send packed lunches in with their child at the start of the school day and not mid-morning.
- Packed lunches will be regularly reviewed by teaching staff / catering staff / midday supervisors.
- Parents are encouraged to follow the guidance in the packed lunch policy.
- If at any point the school is concerned about the contents of a packed lunch or if children are not eating their packed lunch, parents/carers will be contacted.
- The school will provide appropriate facilities for pupils bringing in packed lunches (handwashing and seating space in the dining hall).
- The school will ensure that fresh drinking water is always readily available if children do not have a drink.
- If a child forgets their lunchbox, the school will attempt to contact parents to arrange for a replacement to be dropped off in school. If this cannot be done, children will be given an emergency school lunch. Parents will be required to pay for this.
- Children are not permitted to remove items from their lunchbox outside of the lunchtime period.
- Staff in the dining hall will monitor and assist children with their packed lunches as requested.
- Children are not allowed to share or swap food items.

The school will work with parents to ensure that packed lunches abide by the standards listed below.

- Children are advised to bring packed lunches in insulated bags with freezer blocks, where possible.
- Children are expected to eat/try most of the items in the lunchbox and parents are asked only to add foods they expect their child to eat.
- Children are expected to bring home all packaging and containers in their lunchbox so parents can review what their child has eaten.
- Parents must supply a spoon for yoghurts/jelly etc.

**As a guide on healthy eating packed lunches should include:**

- At least one portion of fruit and one portion of vegetable
- Meat, fish or other source of non-dairy protein every day
- Oily fish, at least once every three weeks
- A starchy food such as any type of bread, pasta, rice, couscous, noodles, potatoes or other cereal
- Dairy food such as milk, cheese, yoghurt, fromage frais or custard
- Only water, fruit juice, milk, yogurt/milk drinks or smoothies
- Drinks should ideally be diluted sugar free squash or diluted fresh juice.

**Packed lunches should NOT include:**

- Snacks such as crisps, instead include breadsticks, seeds, raisins, savoury crackers etc.
- Chocolate bars or sweets, instead include fruit, raisins, plain biscuits
- Ready-made sugar rich drinks or fizzy drinks.
- **Nuts of any kind or nut based products such as cereal bars, Nutella or Peanut Butter.**



**Special diets and allergies**

PLEASE be aware that some of our children have a range of serious allergies, particularly nut and peanut allergies. **Some of our children can have a serious reaction to airborne allergens- so even sitting in proximity to a child that has nuts or peanut based products in their lunchbox can cause an anaphylactic response. Please consider this when preparing your child's lunchbox.**

We recognise that some pupils have certain dietary needs that do not allow for the standards identified here to be met exactly. In this case, parents are urged to be responsible in ensuring that packed lunches are as healthy as possible.

**Dissemination of the policy**

We will write to all new and existing parents/carers to inform them of the policy. The policy is available on the school website.

We will use opportunities such as parent's evenings and school trips, to promote this policy as part of a whole school approach to healthier eating.

Please visit [www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/nutrientstandards](http://www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/nutrientstandards) for more information.

