

# James Dixon Primary School

James Dixon  
Primary



## Healthy Eating Policy

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February 2024

## **Introduction**

James Dixon Primary School is dedicated to providing an environment that promotes healthy eating and enables pupils to make informed food choices. This will be achieved by the whole school approach to food provision and food education documented in this policy.

## **Aims**

The main aims of our school food policy are:

1. To provide a range of healthy food choices throughout the school day
2. To support pupils to make healthy food choices and be better prepared to learn and achieve
3. To ensure a consistent approach to healthy eating across the school community including pupils, staff and parents/carers

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## **Food throughout the school day**

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### **Breakfast**

Breakfast is an important meal that should provide 25% of a child's energy requirement and supports pupils to be ready to learn at the start of each day.

### **School Lunches**

School meals are provided by Pabulum and are served between 11.30am and 1.00pm in the dining hall. The school meals meet the mandatory requirements of the [DfE Guidance School Food in England 2021](#).

School meals are planned on a 3 week cycle and always contain both a meat (no pork) and vegetarian option with jacket potato offered as an alternative. A self-service salad bar provides a wide range of salads and vegetables to encourage children to try new healthy foods.

### **Packed Lunches**

The school strongly encourages all pupils to have a school lunch as this ensures they are receiving a nutritionally balanced diet across the whole week. If parents/carers choose to supply their own packed lunch, we recommend that they adhere to the following requirements for packed lunches:

Packed lunches should include a main starchy meal with a portion of fruit, a portion of vegetables, a dairy and a protein portion.

We advise against certain food items that go against the healthy eating ethos of the

school and promote hyperactivity in children. These foods include:

- Fizzy drinks
- Chocolate (including chocolate biscuits)
- Sweets

We ask parents to restrict certain food items that have been proven to include unhealthy levels of salt, fat and sugar if consumed too often and can also have a detrimental effect on behaviour. These foods include:

- Crisps
- Flavoured drinks
- Cakes

The school provides water for all pupils at lunchtime and throughout the school day. For guidance, please see 'lunchbox tips' (Appendix 1)

### **Snacks**

The school understands that healthy snacks are an important part of the diet of young people. Early Years and Key Stage 1 children are all provided with a piece of fruit or vegetable during the morning. Pupils are encouraged to bring fruit/vegetables into school to eat at break-times or as an after school snack.

### **Jay Dee's Wrap Around Care Meals**

Jay Dee's our wrap-around care provides breakfast and an after school meal which is catered by Pabulum Catering who provide nutritionally balanced meals.

### **Drinks**

Water is freely available in all classrooms and named water bottles are provided for pupils. Water fountains are provided in the lunch hall and there are several water fountains in the playground. Children are actively encouraged to drink water regularly throughout the day.

### **Special Occasions**

The school recognises the importance of celebrating birthdays and special occasions. Parents and Carers are requested to support the school policy by refraining from distributing sweets or cakes at school. For celebration events organised in school, we welcome a variety of healthy foods from different cultures, for children to try.

### **Curricular and extra-curricular activity**

There is a strong emphasis on the teaching of healthy lifestyle choices in all curriculum areas across the school but particularly through our Jigsaw PSHE curriculum and our Food Technology curriculum. The Eatwell Guide is used throughout the school to support children's understanding of a balanced diet. (Appendix 2)

Lunchtime and after-school activities and clubs also support the teaching of healthy lifestyle choices.

### **Special dietary requirements**

The school does everything possible to accommodate pupils' specialist dietary requirements including allergies, intolerances, religious or cultural practices.

Individual Health Care Plans are created for pupils with food allergies. Pupils' food allergies are recorded on Medical Tracker and the school kitchen.

### **Expectations of staff and visitors**

The school expects staff to contribute to and support this Healthy Eating Policy across the school day. Staff and visitors are expected to model good practice around food and drink in line with the policy, when in the company of pupils.

Staff are also encouraged to eat a school lunch and sit with pupils in the dining hall in order to act as role models.

### **Parents, carers and family members**

Our relationship with Parents and Carers is very important and we aim to support them with information and advice around food, so that they are best prepared to make healthy choices for their families.

# APPENDIX 1.

Visit [NHS Better Health, Healthier Families](#)

## Lunchbox tips



### Keep them fuller for longer

Base the main lunchbox item on foods like bread, rice, pasta and potatoes. Choose wholegrain where you can.



### Freeze for variety

Keep a small selection of different types of bread in the freezer so you have a variety of options – like bagels, pittas and wraps, granary, wholemeal and multigrain.



### DIY lunches

Wraps and pots of fillings can be more exciting for kids when they get to make them. Dipping foods are also fun and a nice change from a sandwich each day.



### Cut back on fat

Pick lower-fat fillings – like lean meats (including chicken or turkey), fish (such as tuna or salmon), lower-fat spread, reduced-fat cream cheese and reduced-fat hard cheese. And try to avoid using mayonnaise in sandwiches.

[See more healthier swap ideas](#)



### Mix your slices

If your child does not like wholegrain, try making a sandwich from 1 slice of white bread and 1 slice of brown bread.



### Always add veg

Cherry tomatoes, or sticks of carrot, cucumber, celery and peppers all count towards their 5 A Day. Adding a small pot of reduced-fat hummus or other dips may help with getting kids to eat vegetables.



### Ever green

Always add salad to sandwiches and wraps too – it all counts towards your child's 5 A Day!



### Cheesy does it...

Cheese can be high in fat and salt, so choose stronger-tasting ones – and use less of it – or try reduced-fat varieties.



### Cut down on crisps

If your child really likes their crisps try reducing the number of times you include them in their lunchbox, and swap for homemade plain popcorn or plain rice cakes instead.



### Add bite-sized fruit

Try chopped apple, peeled satsuma segments, strawberries, blueberries, halved grapes or melon slices to make it easier for them to eat. Add a squeeze of lemon juice to stop it from going brown.



### Tinned fruit counts too

A small pot of tinned fruit in juice – not syrup – is perfect for a lunchbox and easily stored in the cupboard.



### Swap the fruit bars

Dried fruit like raisins, sultanas and dried apricots are not only cheaper than processed fruit bars and snacks but can be healthier too. Just remember to keep dried fruit to mealtimes as it can be bad for teeth.



### Switch the sweets

Swap cakes, chocolate, cereal bars and biscuits for malt loaf, fruited teacakes, fruit breads or fruit (fresh, dried or tinned – in juice not syrup).



### Yoghurts: go low-fat and lower-sugar

Pop in low-fat and lower-sugar yoghurts or fromage frais and add your own fruit.



### Get them involved

Get your kids involved in preparing and choosing what goes in their lunchbox. They are more likely to eat it if they helped make it.



### Variety is the spice of lunch!

Be adventurous and get creative to mix up what goes in their lunchbox. Keeping them guessing with healthier ideas will keep them interested and more open to trying things.

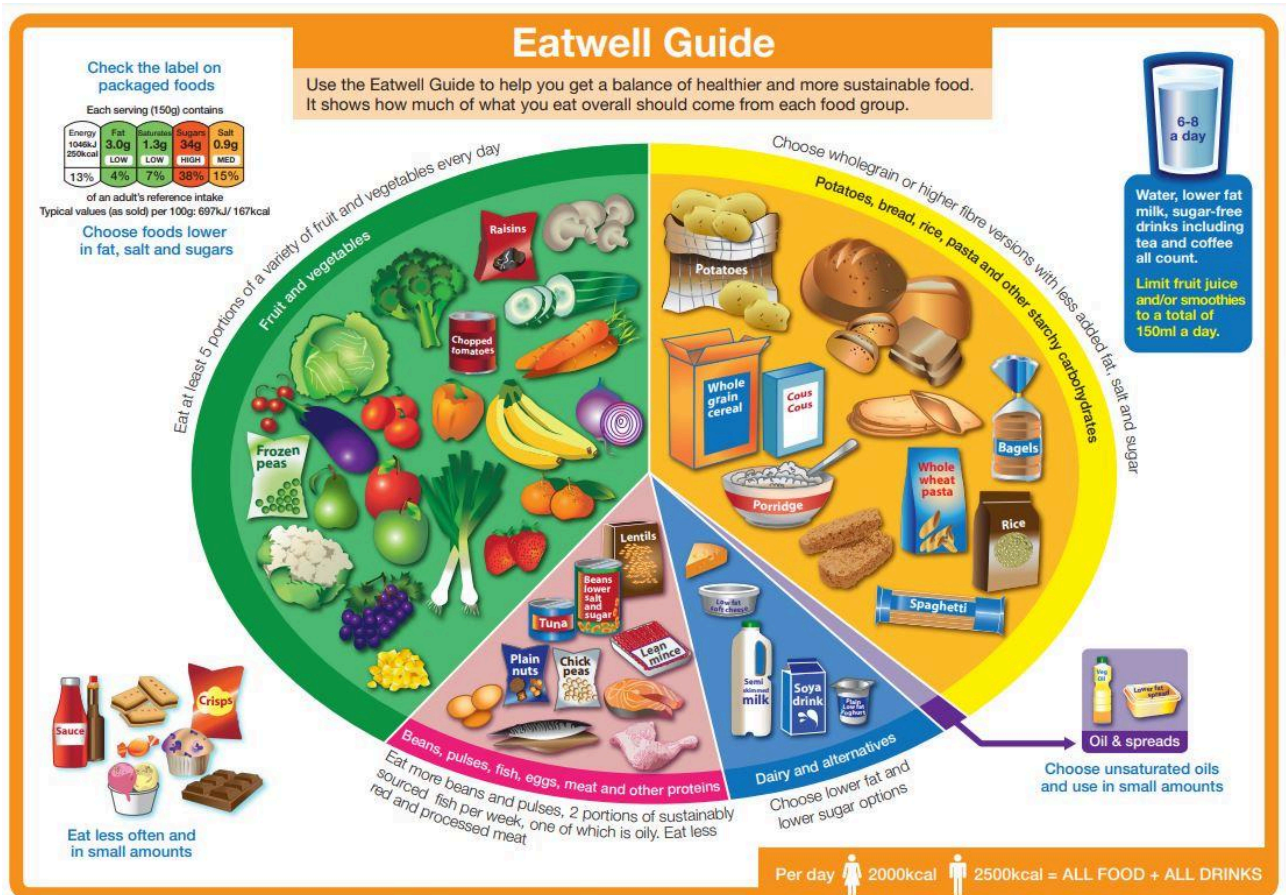


### Plan to Eatwell

The guide shows how much of what we eat overall should come from each food group to achieve a healthy, balanced diet. It can be really useful when thinking about what goes into kids' lunchboxes.

[The Eatwell Guide](#)

# APPENDIX 2.



Source: Public Health England in association with the Welsh Government, Food Standards Scotland and the Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland

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