

Safer Eating Policy

Reedley Primary School

Purpose

This policy sets out how the school provides a safe eating environment, reduces choking and allergy risks, and meets statutory safeguarding duties.

Legal Framework

- EYFS Statutory Framework
- Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions (DfE)
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Equality Act 2010
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Food Information Regulations 2014
- School Food Standards

Responsibilities

The Headteacher ensures implementation and review. Staff supervise children while eating, know allergy and healthcare plans, prepare food safely, and respond to emergencies.

Parents provide up-to-date medical and dietary information.

General Safer Eating

Children must remain seated while eating, be supervised at all times, don't share food, chew thoroughly and have access to water. We are a nut free school and do allow sweets or chewing gum. We do not give chocolate or sweets as rewards. Parents are not allowed to bring in cake or sweets to celebrate special events like children's birthdays due to allergies.

Reception / EYFS

All permanent Reception staff will receive paediatric first aid training. If feasible we will try to ensure any supply staff are also trained. Any untrained staff will not be left to supervise alone when children are eating. Reception children must always be within sight and hearing of an adult while eating. Class staff to remain with children during lunchtime to supervise eating. Children to receive snack as a whole class and eat this whilst facing a member of staff who is trained in paediatric first aid.

Recognised choking hazards will be modified. Grapes and cherry tomatoes are quartered lengthways; sausages sliced lengthways then into small pieces; raw apple thinly sliced; raw carrot grated, cooked or thin sticks; hard cheese cut into strips or small cubes; meat cut into small pieces with bones removed. Food is prepared according to children's age, development and individual needs.

Allergies

We maintain an allergy register and individual healthcare plans. All children with food allergies or intolerances wear an allergy lanyard during mealtimes and at Breakfast Club.

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Author: A. Hume

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We will prevent cross-contamination where reasonably practicable. Staff have received anaphylaxis training and know how to recognise anaphylaxis and access adrenaline auto-injectors.

Training

Relevant staff receive allergy awareness, choking prevention and first aid training. EYFS requirements for paediatric first aid are met. Key staff are trained in food hygiene.

Emergency Response

Follow paediatric first aid procedures for choking. Administer prescribed adrenaline auto-injector without delay where indicated, call 999, inform parents and record incidents on CPOMS.

Monitoring

Incidents and near misses are reviewed annually and following significant events. The policy is reviewed at annually.