

# Al-Khair School

## Packed Lunch Policy



**Approved by:** Sajad Akram

**Date:** 20 September 2021

**Last reviewed on:** 20 September 2021

Sajad Akram

**Next review due by:** 18 September 2022

## Whole School Food Policy



### **Policy Rational**

This policy is part of our whole school food policy and aims to give clear guidance to parents/carers, pupils, and staff on providing a healthy packed lunch.

We believe that a healthy packed lunch can contribute to the health of children and young people and needs to be consistent with the nutritional standards provided by school meals.

The policy applies to all packed lunches consumed within school, on school trips and school journeys taking place during the school day. It also applies to packed lunches provided by the school.

### **Development of the Policy**

This packed lunch policy has been developed by drawing on key government guidance associated with healthy eating and the school day. The Eatwell plate demonstrates how to get the balance right, by showing the proportion of each of the five food groups that should be eaten each day (see appendix 1). School meals and packed lunches represent a third of a child's daily intake of foods and nutrients, which presents a great opportunity to promote healthy food choices for children and young people. The School Food Trust (SFT) provides regulations for healthy school meals and packed lunches (see appendix 2), and this recommends that foods from the high fat and/or sugar

group on the Eatwell plate (e.g. crisps and chocolates) should not be included in a packed lunch, and should be consumed out of school hours.

### **Content of Packed Lunches Foods to include: -**

We ask that all packed lunches be based on the School Food Trust's food-based standards for packed lunches (appendix 1) and should include the following:

- **Fruit and Vegetables;** at least one portion of fruit and one portion of vegetables
- **Protein;** meat, fish, egg, or other source of non-dairy protein (e.g. lentils, kidney beans, chickpeas, hummus or dhal)
- **Oily Fish,** such as tinned or fresh mackerel, sardines, salmon, tuna
- **Carbohydrate;** starchy food such as bread, pasta, rice, couscous, noodles, potatoes, chapattis, and roti.
- **Dairy:** food such as milk, cheese, yoghurt, fromage frais, or calcium fortified Soya products, reduced fat versions of these should be used where possible.
- **Drinks;** water, pure fruit juice (no added sugar), semi-skimmed or skimmed milk, reduced fat and sugar yoghurt, milk drinks or smoothies.  
NO FIZZY DRINKS
- **Puddings:** should be fruit based such as fruit salad, tinned fruit with yoghurt or custard, fruity rice pudding, fruit smoothies, fruit-based crumble.

### **Foods to avoid or limit: -**

- Crisps, cakes and plain biscuits
- Meat products such as sausage rolls, individual pies, corned meat and sausages.

These items should be included in packed lunches no more than once per week.

### **Nut Free School**

The school is a nut free zone so food containing nuts must not be sent in. If a parent has sent in food which contains nuts the teacher will remove it and it will be kept in the staff room until it has been returned to the parent.

### **Packed lunches should not include any of the following: -**

- Fizzy/sugary drinks in cartons, bottles, or cans (including diet or energy drinks which can contain high levels of caffeine and other additives which are not suitable for children)
- Confectionary such as chocolate bars and sweets
- Chocolate spread as sandwich filling
- Peanuts and peanut products

### **Special diets and allergies**

We ask that parents/carers be aware of nut allergies. The school recognises that some pupils may require special diets that do not follow the National Food Standards exactly. In this case parents/carers are asked to make sure that packed lunches are as healthy as possible. For these reasons' pupils are also not permitted to swap food items. As some children in school have nut allergies, we ask parents to refrain from including peanuts or peanut butter in lunches.

### **Packed Lunch Containers**

We ask that parents/carers and pupils: -

- Provide a packed lunch container where food items can be stored securely and appropriately until the lunchtime period. We recommend parents/carers to include an ice pack with packed lunches, to reduce the risk of harmful bacteria growing if left in warm temperatures.
- Bring packed lunches in reusable plastic containers, rather than disposing of plastic bags and bottles.

### **Staff**

To support a whole school approach, staff are encouraged to comply with this policy when bringing in packed lunches and eating these with pupils.

### **Facilities for packed lunches We**

will: -

- Provide appropriate facilities to store packed lunches
- Provide free, fresh drinking water
- Provide appropriate dining room arrangements for all pupils, regardless of whether they have a school lunch or packed lunch, and wherever possible, ensure that pupils with a packed lunch and pupils having school meals, can sit and eat together.

### **Monitoring**

To promote healthy eating, we will regularly monitor the content of packed lunches and involve pupils and staff. We will talk to parents/carers where necessary and offer guidance on bringing healthy packed lunches.

If a lunch is not deemed to meet nutritional standards parents will be advised on the changes that need to be made. Any sweets or fizzy drinks will be confiscated until the end of the day. These may be substituted with a piece of fruit and alternative drink.

### **Working with parents and carers**

We hope that all parents and carers will support this packed lunch policy. We will offer advice and guidance to parents/carers on packed lunches if required. We offer a range of ways to support parents/carers e.g. regular information on newsletters, special meetings and workshops.

### **Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed yearly by the Headteacher



## Appendix 1 – The Eatwell Plate



Appendix 2 – The School Food Trust Standards for Packed Lunches

**For a balanced packed lunch select these healthier food and drinks**



**Fruit and Vegetables** Include at least one portion of fruit and one portion of vegetables or salad every day



Meat, fish or another source of non-dairy



**Meat and Alternatives** protein should be included every day. Non-dairy sources of protein include lentils, kidney beans, chickpeas, hummus and falafel



**Oily Fish** Include oily fish, such as salmon, at least once every three weeks



**Starchy Food** A starchy food such as any type of bread



or pasta, rice, couscous, noodles, potatoes or other cereals should be included everyday



**Milk and Dairy Food** Include a dairy food such as semi-skimmed milk, cheese, yoghurt, fromage frais or custard

everyday

**Drinking Water** Fresh drinking water should be available at all times

**Healthier Drinks** Include only water, still fruit juice, semi skimmed or skimmed milk, yoghurt or milk drinks and smoothies

**Avoid including these foods in packed lunches**



### **Snacks**

Snacks such as crisps should not be included. Instead include nuts/seeds, vegetables and fruit (with no added salt, sugar or fat). Savoury crackers or breadsticks served with fruit, vegetables or dairy food are also a good choice



### **Confectionary**

Confectionary such as chocolate bars, chocolate coated biscuits and sweets should not be included. Cakes and biscuits are allowed but encourage your child to eat these only as a balanced meal



### **Meat Products**

Meat products such as sausage rolls, individual pies, corned meat and sausages should be included only occasionally