LEAS PARK JUNIOR SCHOOL

FOOD POLICY

(INCLUDING SCHOOL DINNERS AND PACKED LUNCHES)

September 2026

Aim:

To ensure that all food and drink consumed on the school premises, whether provided by the school or brought from home, provides pupils with healthy and nutritious food as part of their overall diet.

From September 2021 Leas Park is a nut free school.

This policy embraces the Every Child Matters agenda, the right of every child to:

- Stay safe
- Be healthy
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well being

Responsibilities:

The school will:

- Provide a dining environment that is appropriate, hygienic and attractive with a seat and a place to eat.
- Ensure good behaviour, manners and consideration for others is maintained and promoted
- Ensure the children have access to drinking water at all times during the school day
- Monitor what the children eat if appropriate or requested, both school dinners and home prepared packed lunches and liaise with parents

Parents will:

- Ensure that any snacks and/or packed lunches from home will be healthy and nutritious and nut free

- Provide one week's notice (in writing) should their child want to change from sandwiches to dinners or vice versa
- Liaise with school should there be any issues surrounding their child's diet or eating habits

School is not responsible for providing fridge space (parents should send these foods to school in insulated bags with freezer blocks) or for the provision of plates/bowls/cutlery for those children who bring packed lunches.

As far as possible, a member of staff will be available in school dinner in the hall with the children every day to support both the children and the midday supervisors, and members of the Senior Leadership Team will also make themselves available during lunchtimes as required.

Special diets and allergies:

We recognise that some children may require special diets for medical, ethical or religious reasons that do not allow for standards to be met exactly. In these cases the school will work closely with the Local Authority dietician, our Cook Supervisor and the child's parents to ensure the child's needs are met.

Nuts and foods containing nuts and fish are not allowed in school due to children who have severe allergies.

School Dinners:

School dinners should be paid for in advance using ParentPay (online payment system).

Parents should give the school one week's notice in writing should their child wish to change from school dinners to sandwiches or vice versa.

Children must have either school dinners OR bring sandwiches.

Packed lunches:

We encourage those children who bring packed lunches to bring a healthy, nutritious lunch as part of their balanced diet and will support any parents who require help with this.

We have a common sense approach to crisps/confectionary/cakes etc and consider these to be acceptable items for lunchboxes **in moderation.**

Children are NOT allowed to bring:

- Flasks (for hot drinks / soup)
- Glass bottles
- Ring pull cans
- Fizzy drinks

Children who bring packed lunches are expected to take all of their rubbish home with them in order that parents can monitor their child's diet and eating habits.

Liaison with parents:

At Leas Park we want all children to benefit from a healthy and nutritious diet. We will work closely with parents to monitor the children's eating habits and diets regardless of whether they have a school dinner or a packed lunch. If appropriate we will contact other agencies to support this.