



THE NORTON
KNATCHBULL
SCHOOL

Things done well make the best memories
SIR NORTON KNATCHBULL – 1637

Food Policy

Policy Owner	Val Martin, CFO
Policy reviewed by	Val Martin
EIA*	Lena Seed, Governance & Compliance Professional
Delegated authority	Finance & General Purposes Committee
Approved by Finance & General Purposes Committee	30 th January 2026
Date of Review	January 2027
Publication	Circulated to all staff Published on school website

1. School food statement

At NKS we believe that food is a fundamental cornerstone of health and learning, not just essential fuel for the body. This Food Policy reflects our dedication to fostering a culture where nutritious, sustainable and delicious food enhances the lives of our students, staff and the wider community and represents value for money. Through this policy, we aim to inspire healthy eating habits that last a lifetime while contributing to a healthier planet.

2. Aims

Our Food Policy aspires to:

- Encourage healthy eating habits and ensure the provision of wholesome, balanced meals for a pleasurable experience
- ensure compliance with the government's School Food Standards, emphasising quality and nutrition [School food standards practical guide - GOV.UK](#)
- promote sustainable practices by sourcing food responsibly and reducing waste (both food and packaging)
- empower students to make informed choices regarding healthy food and drink
- create an inclusive food environment that respects cultural diversity and dietary needs

3. Scope

This policy applies to all aspects of food in the school, including meals, snacks, drinks, packed lunches and food education. It encompasses all students, staff and stakeholders, as well as external providers involved in food-related activities.

4. Healthy Eating Standards

4.1 School Meal Standards

Provide freshly prepared meals that meet the School Food Standards. Our menus should feature:

- a range of fruits and vegetables every day to encourage variety
- plenty of unrefined starchy foods, the use wholegrain varieties regularly
- whole grains and lean proteins to support growth and learning
- minimal processed foods, reduced sugar, salt and fat to promote healthy eating
- minimal packaging where possible without compromising quality

4.2 Packed Lunches:

Families are partners in promoting healthy eating. We encourage balanced packed lunches containing:

- fresh produce, fruit, whole grains and proteins
- avoidance of sugary drinks and snacks and processed food items

4.3 Snacks and Drinks:

Before school, at break and lunchtime, students have access to snacks from the canteen; options include fresh fruit and savoury snacks. We focus on water from fountains and taps as being the primary drink available. Students are encouraged to carry personal water bottles and refill these.

4.4 Special Dietary Requirements:

We ensure inclusivity by accommodating all dietary needs regarding medical, cultural and religious considerations, fostering a sense of belonging for all.

4.5 Commitment to Natasha's Law:

We are fully committed to compliance with Natasha's Law, ensuring that all pre-packaged food items provided within the school are clearly labelled with full allergen information. We will work closely with our catering providers and staff to guarantee transparency and safety for all individuals with food allergies.

5. Food Education

We are committed to equipping students with the knowledge and skills to make informed and balanced food choices. Our curriculum includes:

- lessons on nutrition and the environmental impact of food choices and waste
- practical cooking lessons within Design and Technology to build confidence and culinary skills

6. Environmental Sustainability

Sustainability is at the heart of our food policy - we require our catering contractor to:

- source food locally and ethically to minimise any environmental impact and support our local community
- actively reduce food waste through careful planning and portion control
- any leftovers and other food waste must be recycled via the food bins
- promote the use of reusable or biodegradable packaging to reduce plastic waste

7. Partnerships and Community Engagement

We work collaboratively with families, local businesses and other organisations to:

- share knowledge and promote healthy and sustainable eating practices
- celebrate cultural diversity through themed meals and shared experiences
- we encourage sending any left and in-date food to local communities via charitable organisations like Olio

8. Implementation and Monitoring

8.1 Roles and Responsibilities:

- Governors and the SLT are champions for this policy, ensuring that its principles are embedded in school life

- staff act as role models, demonstrating healthy eating behaviours
- the catering team produces daily menus that align with our vision for quality, health, sustainability and value

8.2 Review and Evaluation:

We regularly review our food practices to ensure continuous improvement. Feedback from students, families and staff shapes our approach and compliance with the School Food Standards is monitored through our canteen contract.

NKS – Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

The purpose of an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is to ensure that policies, procedures, or decisions do not create unnecessary barriers for individuals with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. Where potential negative impacts are identified, these should be eliminated or minimised, and opportunities for positive impact considered.

POLICY STATUS

New Policy

THIS POLICY WILL AFFECT

- Staff
- Students
- Teachers
- Parents

EIA completed by: Lena Seed, Governance & Compliance Professional

Contributors to EIA: None

Date completed: March 2026

IMPACT ANALYSIS

Protected characteristic	Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Why will the policy have this effect?
Sex		✓		The policy promotes equitable access to healthy, nutritious food and applies uniformly regardless of sex. Catering standards, packed lunch expectations, and food education content do not differentiate by sex.
Race		✓		The policy promotes equitable access to healthy, nutritious food and applies uniformly regardless of sex. Catering standards, packed lunch expectations, and food education content do not differentiate by sex.
Religion or belief	✓			The policy respects religious dietary requirements and commits to ensuring that special dietary needs—including religious observance and restrictions—are accommodated. This supports participation for all students and staff.
Sexual orientation		✓		The policy does not involve decision-making related to personal identity and does not create differentiated impacts based on sexual orientation.
Gender reassignment		✓		The policy applies equally to all individuals and does not involve processes that relate to gender identity. Catering provision and food education are accessible to all without distinction.
Pregnancy or maternity		✓		The policy supports healthy eating habits and access to nutritious food, which may be beneficial to pregnant

				staff or students. No barriers are created for participation in eating spaces or access to meals.
Age		✓		The policy supports healthy eating for all students and staff and includes teaching elements appropriate for students of different ages. Food standards apply consistently across age groups, with no disadvantages identified.
Disability	✓			The policy includes commitments to meeting medical dietary requirements (e.g., allergies, intolerances) and supporting safe access to food (including compliance with Natasha’s Law). Reasonable adjustments can be made for students requiring adapted menus, texture-modified food, or additional support in food education.
Marriage or civil partnership		✓		This characteristic is not relevant to the operation of the food policy. There is no differential access to food or services based on marital status.

INTERSECTIONAL IMPACT

No intersectional impacts have been identified.

The policy applies uniformly across the school community and does not interact with combinations of protected characteristics in a way that would create additional barriers or disadvantage.

CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

No specific stakeholder consultation was required due to the statutory and procedural nature of the policy.

FINAL DECISION ON POLICY

The policy does not require revision as a result of this Equality Impact Assessment.

(Full EIA content inserted here)