

FEEDING POLICY

Policy Scope and Accountability

- Staff, governors, parents and the wider school community should have regard to this policy.
- Accountability for leading administrating, implementing and reviewing policy rests with the school leadership.
- Accountability for performing as policy requires rests with all staffs.

General Policy Statement

At Chellow Heights School we intend to provide a safe, secure, caring environment where every one is valued and respected equally. We aim to provide an inclusive education where children develop independent learning skills and are taught according to their needs, whatever their age, gender, background, beliefs or abilities. As a dual sided school, wherever possible the ethos and approaches are replicated across both sites. We have had regard to legislation re disabilities, race relations and special education needs and national, and local policies and procedures when compiling this policy.

Policy

Children require a balanced nourishing diet in order to thrive and be healthy. The quality of a child's diet and nutritional status effects his/her ability to attend, concentrate and learn effectively. The management of feeding of children with physical disabilities is often difficult and this may have meant that they have missed the opportunity to develop the positive emotional experiences that are usually associated with feeding.

Mealtimes provide an opportunity for practicing patterns of movement which influence the development of communication as well as enabling the improvement of posture, head control and hand/eye co-ordination. They also provide a social setting in which communication is an integral part. The children can express likes, dislikes and opinions. Everyone who is involved in giving children meals has the potential to help improve skills in many aspects of development.

Aims

This document aims to inform parents and others of the school's policy for the management of feeding of children with physical disabilities:

We believe:

- children should be fed in a quiet, relaxed, happy environment
- children should have suitable equipment and facilities for safe and successful feeding
- children should be enabled to experience a variety of food tastes, textures and temperatures
- children should have the opportunity to develop opinions and preferences about food
- there should be interdisciplinary co-operation for effective assessment and provision of children's feeding needs
- mealtimes should be used as an opportunity to encourage the development of effective communication
- mealtimes should be used as an opportunity to improve lips, tongue and jaw movement and head and neck posture which may be used in communication

Procedures

In order to ensure that each child gains the maximum educational benefit from mealtimes, each child should be offered suitable food in an appropriate manner and social setting, according to their individual needs and abilities. Those children with physical and sensory disabilities who require feeding should have specific individual guide-lines about their mealtime requirements. The school will identify a team of teachers and lunchtime staff who will establish best feeding practice and monitor its implementation. Other professionals - nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and speech and language therapists - will be involved with the feeding and swallowing. The information re pupils is available in each area in which the children are fed.

All members of staff are made aware of any medical/allergic conditions of individual children through staff meetings, feeding Plans, medical care plans, pen portraits, discussion, professional reports, and clearly displayed notices in the classroom and kitchens. Information relating to individual needs is discussed with all parents and school nurses before their child's admission to school.

Roles and Responsibilities

- The Governors and the Headteacher will ensure adherence to this policy and legal reporting requirements
- Staff will act in accordance with the policy

Date 10.07.2022