



Whole School Nutrition Policy (Including EYFS and Out of School Provision)

Policy Statement:

At Cranford, we provide nutritious, home-made, hot meals and alternative cold options for all our pupils and staff. Our aims are to provide pupils with the energy they need to learn and concentrate, and to offer them the opportunity to sample a wide variety of freshly cooked dishes.

We also believe that well-managed mealtimes encourage appropriate social interaction between pupils and staff. We organise meal and snack times so that they are social occasions in which children and staff participate. Lunch for Pre School, Reception, and Years 1 and 2 is a family service with a member of staff serving the food at each table to encourage conversation and good table manners. A self-service system operates for the pupils in the upper Juniors (Years 3 to 6). The member of staff on duty will ensure that any issues with table manners are addressed accordingly and support pupils to try new foods. Pupils in the Senior School use a self-service system with a member of the teaching staff on supervision duty in the Willow Court Restaurant over the lunch period.

This policy applies across the whole school day- including breakfast, snacks, lunch, and out-of-school provision - and is fully aligned with the DfE School Food Standards (2025) and EYFS Nutrition Guidance (2025), which from 1 September 2025 providers must “have regard to” as part of the statutory EYFS framework.

This policy is available to all interested parties on the website and on request from the School Office. It is reviewed annually, and when events or legislation requires.

Key Personnel:

In September 2022, Thomas Franks took over the School’s catering and their staff liaise closely with the SLT and the Headmaster. In the first instance, the pupil’s Form Tutor should be approached should there be any problems or questions regarding this policy.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Provision

In line with the EYFS Framework and Nutrition Guidance (DfE 2025):

- Menus for EYFS are planned to ensure appropriate portion sizes, textures, and nutritional balance.
- Staff are trained in allergy awareness, paediatric first aid [*allergy awareness, safer eating practices, and paediatric first aid*].
- Intolerances, cultural, religious, vegetarian and vegan diets are all respected.
- Drinks for EYFS are a choice of milk and/or water. Fruit juice and squash are not permitted.
- Snacks and puddings consist of fruit, vegetables, and plain yoghurt or fromage frais in line with statutory guidance.
- Mealtimes support independence, e.g. self-serving where appropriate.
- Safer eating practices are followed: children are always seated in appropriate seating; staff sit facing children to monitor safe eating; mealtimes take place in a designated eating area with minimal distractions; choking prevention is actively supported.
- In the event of a choking incident, this is recorded, reviewed, and communicated to parents.
- Allergy and intolerance management is supported by individual Allergy Action Plans and reviewed termly with necessary parties. Any changes or updates to dietary requirements during this time period are put into place immediately.

Procedures:

We follow these procedures to promote healthy eating at Cranford School:

- Before a child starts to attend Cranford School, we find out from parents about any dietary needs of the child, including any allergies.
- We request updates from parents on an annual basis to ensure that our records are up-to-date, and parents are encouraged to communicate any changes as they occur.
- We display current photographic information about children's dietary needs so that catering and teaching staff are fully informed. Junior School children with specific dietary requirements are served meals on a red plate.
- We implement systems together with Thomas Franks, to ensure that children receive only food and drink that is consistent with their dietary requirements.
- We take care not to provide food containing nuts or nut products. Cranford aims to be a 'nut-free zone'.
- Snacks are carefully chosen to be healthy and nutritious, such as fruit and vegetables, milk and water.
- Through discussion with parents and research by staff, we obtain information about the dietary requirements of any religious groups to which children, and their parents belong, and of vegetarians and vegans, and about food allergies and intolerances. We take account of this information in the provision of food and drinks.
- We ensure that staff show sensitivity in providing for children's diets and allergies. Staff do not use a child's diet or allergy as a label for the child or make him or her feel singled out because of his or her diet or allergy.
- In order to protect children with food allergies, children are discouraged from sharing and swapping any food with each other.
- Meal and snack times are used to help children develop independence through making choices, serving food and drink (where appropriate) and feeding themselves.
- Children are provided with utensils that are appropriate to their ages and stages of development and that take into account the eating practices of their cultures where appropriate.

- All children bring a named water bottle each day. Additionally, fresh drinking water is available for pupils throughout the day. Children are informed of how to access it.
- We provide nutritious food, all meals are made from fresh, natural ingredients. We always use fresh vegetables, although frozen peas and sweet corn are used, as these are more practical varieties of these vegetables. Fresh vegetables are sourced from local, organic producers, where possible. All our meat is sourced from quality, local butchers. Pupils in all areas of the School receive a choice of fresh fruit or a traditional, home-made pudding or yogurt each day.
- Menus are changed regularly and with seasonal ingredients in mind, and dishes are chosen with care to provide a balanced diet, and these are posted on our website for parents to view.
- Pupil voice is considered in menu development and lunchtime arrangements.
- Pupils in EYFS and Years 1 and 2 are not given a choice of menu as this is felt to be inappropriate for this age group. Only those registered as being vegetarian are able to take advantage of the vegetarian option.
- Pupils in Years 3 to 6 are offered one meat and one vegetarian option as well as an additional meat dish and a choice of salad bar, jacket potato or soup each day*. The vegetarian option is available to all pupils.
- Pupils in the senior school are given two styles of lunch option each day, a hot meal or a 'grab and go' cold lunch. This allows for pupils who have lunch time enrichment activities to collect a lunch which can be eaten before, during or after the club depending on the activity. We also took into our pupil voice feedback, which highlighted pupils wished for a sandwich option on some days of the week.

Senior school lunch arrangements:

Senior pupils order their lunch for the week ahead on a Monday morning. They choose between a hot main meal option, such as lasagne, a jacket potato with a variety of fillings, pasta with a choice of sauce, or a 'grab and go' packed lunch with sandwich, crisps and fruit. The pupils also have access to a fresh salad bar every day and can choose to add items from this to their meal choice, or have a lunch made up entirely of salad (including protein and carbohydrate options.)

Lunchtimes

All pupils in the Junior School eat lunch at 12:00 every day. All pupils in the Senior School eat lunch at 1pm every day. This ensures the pupils can gather collectively to share lunch, then depart for clubs and enrichment activities during the remainder of their lunch break. This also ensures that all pupils are having their lunch at an appropriate time for their age group and no group of pupils is waiting late into the day for their main meal.

Health, Safety and Food Hygiene:

Our kitchens and dining room are managed with health, safety and food hygiene as a top priority. All our catering staff are fully trained by both us and Thomas Franks.

EYFS Key Themes and Commitments:

This policy complies with the following EYFS Key Themes and Commitments:

- [A Unique Child \(1.2 Inclusive Practice, 1.4 Health and Well-being\)](#)

- Positive Relationships (2.1 Respecting Each Other, 2.2 Parents as Partners, 2.4 Key Person)
- Enabling Environments (3.2 Supporting Every Child, 3.4 The Wider Context)
- Learning and Development (4.4 Personal, Social and Emotional Development)
- Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements (Safer Eating Practices, 2025 update)

Reviewed: May 2025
Review due: May 2026

Matron and Head of EYFS
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