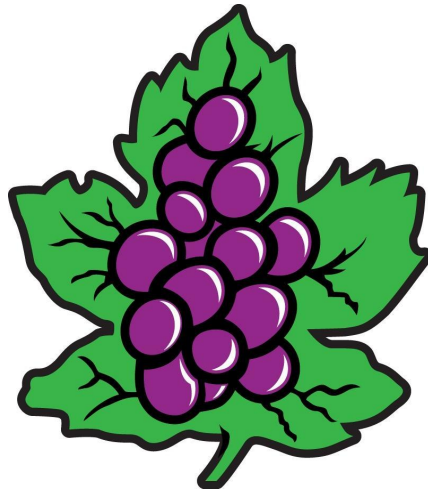


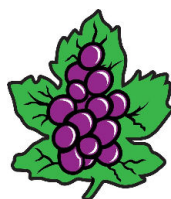


FOOD AND DRINK POLICY

Kerem School

Approved by: Education and Standards Committee Written: March 2019

Last reviewed August 2025 Next review due: August 2026
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KEREM SCHOOL

FOOD AND DRINK POLICY

Policy Statement

Kerem School and EYU regard snack and meal times as an important part of the day. Eating represents a social time for children and adults and helps children to learn about healthy eating.

Kashrut

- In accordance with our Jewish ethos, all food on the premises must be recognised as kosher according to the London Beth Din. A copy of the approved food list is available from Jewish book shops, kosher food shops and online at isitkosher.uk.
- Alternatively, food can be purchased from a kosher shop and carry a hechsher.
- All food brought onto the premises must also be nut and sesame-free. This includes all food brought onto the premises by staff.
- To prevent staff from bringing in food which could compromise the school's kashrut policy, the school provides lunches for anyone who works from morning until past the lunch break.
- If a member of staff wishes to use a food product with their class, whether for eating or a science experiment, it must be discussed with the Head of Jewish Studies in advance of the lesson.
- Any food brought into school must again be checked with the Head of Jewish Studies before being brought to the classroom.
- At lunch times, all members of staff are required to use a mat (provided) in the staff room when eating lunch, to avoid placing meaty plates directly onto a dairy table.
- Staff are also requested not to use school plates and cutlery for their food from home.
- Staff are also requested to abstain from making cups of milky tea/coffee at lunchtime whilst meaty plates etc are still on the staff room table.
- We ask parents to ensure that food served at out-of-school birthday parties is strictly kosher so that all children can comfortably participate.

Procedures

- Before a pupil's entry, parents complete an entry information form with details of their child's dietary needs or allergies. Parents are requested to keep this information updated.
- Information about allergies is displayed within the class, in the staff rooms on both sites and in the offices so that all relevant staff are fully informed.
- Care is taken not to provide food containing nuts/sesame seeds or nut/sesame products and all staff are especially vigilant where we have a pupil who has a known allergy to nuts or sesame seeds.
- Systems are implemented to ensure that pupils only receive food and drink that is consistent with their dietary needs.
- Before eating and drinking, children say the appropriate blessings.

- Meal and snack times help pupils develop independence through making choices, serving food and drink and feeding themselves.

EYU:

- Snack time - parents send in cut-up fruit or vegetables for their children.
- On Fridays, as part of their Shabbat party, pupils are given challah and grape juice.
- Semi-skimmed milk or water is provided for the pupils at snack time. If a pupil has an allergy, parents can provide their child with a milk alternative.
- Fresh drinking water is available at all times for the pupils. Pupils are informed about how to obtain this water and know that they can ask for water at any time during the day.
- Pupils are offered a two-course, hot, kosher meal, or kosher vegetarian meal if the parents request it. Each meal has protein, carbohydrates and vegetables, including salads.
- The food is served plated for the children to encourage all the children to try new foods.
- A 2-week menu is sent out to parents before the start of each term and can also be found on the school website.
- Children who stay for after-school clubs are provided with a nut and sesame-free snack. Children may bring in extra fruit or vegetables but other snacks are not permitted.

MAIN SCHOOL:

- Pupils are provided with a two-course, hot, kosher meal, or a kosher vegetarian meal if the parents request it. Each meal has protein, carbohydrates and vegetables, including salads. Sandwiches are available as an alternative. There is also a range of salads available. Fruit is available every day.
- The meal menus (which work on a 2-week rotation) are displayed in the hall where children eat and sent to the parents for reference. Food is ordered in advance (prior to the start of each term) from the menu.
- We provide all pupils with utensils that are appropriate for their age and stage of development.
- On outings, pupils are usually provided with a packed lunch which they choose prior to the outing. Occasionally, parents may be asked to provide children with a healthy, nut and sesame-free, kosher, packed lunch. No sweets, chocolates or fizzy drinks are permitted.
- Children with allergies or intolerances are catered for.
- Children who stay for after-school clubs are provided with a nut and sesame-free snack. Children may bring in extra fruit or vegetables but other snacks are not permitted.

Food Safety

- Please see the Food Hygiene policy
- At least one person at the EYU and Norrice Lea site has a Food Hygiene Certificate.
- The person responsible for lunches checks the food temperature before the food is taken to the dining areas.
- In the kitchens, there are separate facilities for hand washing and washing up.
- All surfaces are non-porous and cleaned before and after food preparation.
- Waste food is disposed of daily.
- Pupils do not have access to the kitchens.
- When pupils participate in cooking activities, they are supervised at all times, understand the importance of hand washing and simple hygiene rules and do not have unsupervised access to electrical equipment, such as blenders.

Food Poisoning

- If children and/or adults have been diagnosed by a doctor to be suffering from food poisoning and where it seems possible that the source of the outbreak is within the school, the designated Deputy Head Teacher will contact the Environmental Health Department and the Health Protection Agency to report the outbreak and will comply with any investigation.
- If the food poisoning is identified as a notifiable disease under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988, the Head Teacher will notify the appropriate body.