

Food safety and nutrition procedures

# Meeting dietary requirements

Snack and mealtimes are an important part of the day. Eating represents a social time for children and adults and helps children to learn about healthy eating. We aim to provide nutritious food, which meets the children’s individual dietary needs and preferences. Frimley Green Pre-School only provides snack and not meals.

* Staff discuss and record children’s dietary needs, allergies and any ethnic or cultural food preferences with their parents/carers. A child’s special dietary requirements are recorded on registration to the setting and information is shared with all staff.
* If a child has a known food allergy, procedure Allergies and food intolerance is followed.
* Staff record information about each child’s dietary needs in the individual child’s registration form; parents/carers sign the form to signify that it is correct.
* Up-to-date information about individual children’s dietary needs is displayed so that all staff and volunteers are fully informed.
* Staff ensure that children receive only food and drink that is consistent with their dietary needs and cultural or ethnic preferences, as well as their parent/carer’s wishes. At each snack time, a member of staff is responsible for checking that the food provided meets the dietary requirements for each child.
* Snacks foods that contain any food allergens are identified and labelled.
* The pre-school will provide healthy snacks, providing children with familiar foods and introducing them to new ones.
* Through on-going discussion with parents/carers and research by staff, staff obtain information about the dietary rules of religious groups to which children and their parents belong, and of vegetarians and vegans, as well as food allergies. Staff take account of this information when providing food and drink.
* Frimley Green Pre-School does not provide meat or fish as part of snack time.
* All staff show sensitivity in providing for children’s diets, allergies and cultural or ethnic food preferences. A child’s diet or allergy is never used as a label for the child, they are not made to feel ‘singled out’ because of their diet, allergy or cultural/ethnic food preferences.
* Fresh drinking water is available throughout the day. Staff inform children how to obtain the drinking water and that they can ask for water at any time during the day.
* Meal and snack times are organised as social occasions.

**Fussy/faddy eating**

* Children who are showing signs of ‘strong food preferences, or aversions to food’ are not forced to eat anything they do not want to.
* Staff recognise the signs that a child has had enough and remove uneaten food without comment.
* Children are not made to stay at the table after others have left if they refuse to eat certain items of food.
* Staff work in partnership with parents/carers to support them with children who are showing signs of ‘food preference or aversion’ and sign post them to further advice, for example, How to Manage Simple Faddy Eating in Toddlers (Infant & Toddler Forum) <https://infantandtoddlerforum.org/health-and-childcare-professionals/factsheets/>

**Packed lunches (Please read alongside the Healthy Eating and Lunch Box Policy)**

Where children have packed lunches, staff promote healthy eating, ensuring that parents/carers are given advice and information about what is appropriate content for a child’s lunch box. Parents/carers are also advised to take measures to ensure children’s lunch box contents remain cool i.e. ice packs, as the setting may not have facilities for refrigerated storage.

This policy was adopted by Frimley Green Pre-School on 24th February 2025.