

Dr Walker's C of E Primary School



An Exceptional Place to Flourish

Though your beginning was small,
your future will flourish indeed.
Job 8:7

NON-STATUTORY POLICY

Lunch Policy

Ratified by Governors	02.10.23
Review Cycle	Every 3 years

Chair of Governors: K Bush	
Headteacher: L Lawson	

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Pre-amble: School Vision, Ethos and Values

Dr Walker's is a mixed Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School in Fyfield, Ongar, Essex.

We support all pupils to succeed in reaching their God given potential at Dr Walker's – 'An Exceptional Place to Flourish', by developing

- **Belief** in self and the development of confidence, respect and trust for others and an appreciation of spirituality and an understanding of faith in God;
- **Engagement** in a love for learning by nurturing curiosity and independence; and
- **Excellence** in reaching personal goals by demonstrating resilience and positive behaviour.

Our **CHRISTIAN VALUES** are reflected in:

- Standing with **COURAGE** for what is right.
- Using **CREATIVITY** in problem solving and making life beautiful.
- Treating every person and everything with **RESPECT**.
- Having **COMPASSION** for others.
- Completing every task with **PERSEVERANCE**.
- Taking **RESPONSIBILITY** for ourselves.
- Living with **HOPE** for a better future.

At Dr Walker's we provide every pupil with the care and support they need to develop as individuals and become educated and successful British Citizens who understand the importance of the following British values:

- **Democracy**
- **The rule of law**
- **Individual liberty**
- **Mutual respect and**
- **Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.**

Lunch

- Dr Walker's C of E is a nut free school due to allergies. Pupils are not to bring to school any consumables containing nuts.
- Pupils will have a choice of packed lunch or school dinner.
- We do however, encourage pupils to have a school meal.
- The school offer free school meals to all Reception and KS1 pupils as they automatically have the provision of Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM).
- Staff are on duty in the lunch hall during lunch to oversee lunch provision.
- Staff will not monitor pupils on a 1:1 basis to eat, unless this is required as part of provision in an EHCP.
- Staff will however encourage all pupils to eat a reasonable amount of food during lunchtime.
- Pupils will not be forced to eat.
- We urge parents to pack healthy lunch boxes and to refrain from sweets, chocolate, crisps, etc.
- No fizzy drinks allowed.
- Pupils will be asked to place in their lunch boxes all food which they did not consume, so that parents can see what was eaten or not. This includes wraps, yoghurts, fruits, etc.

School dinners

- Dr Walker's Church of England Primary School has teamed up with Ashlyns to provide our school dinners.
- School dinners are prepared on site and is overseen by Ashlyns.
- The school has a three weekly rota menu.
- Parents are asked to discuss the meal options with their child as children will inform the class teacher during registration of their preferred choice.
- The school will liaise with parents when it is deemed necessary to get the parent's preferred choice of meals for their child.

Ashlyns' menu consists of:

- Option 1: Hot meal
- Option 2: Vegetarian
- Dessert

Also, daily available:

- Jacket potato with filling
- Wholemeal bread
- Choice of salads
- Water

GOV.UK has set out [standards for school food](#). Ashlyns use these standards when making our menus. This contributes to the health and education of children and young people.

Ashlyns uses a range of foods to encourage healthy eating:

- fibre and starchy foods like bread, wholegrain pasta, wholegrain rice and cereals
- fruit and vegetables, providing vitamins, minerals and fibre
- protein through fish, meat, beans and pulses
- calcium for bone development in milk and dairy products
- semi-skimmed milk to reduce saturated fats.

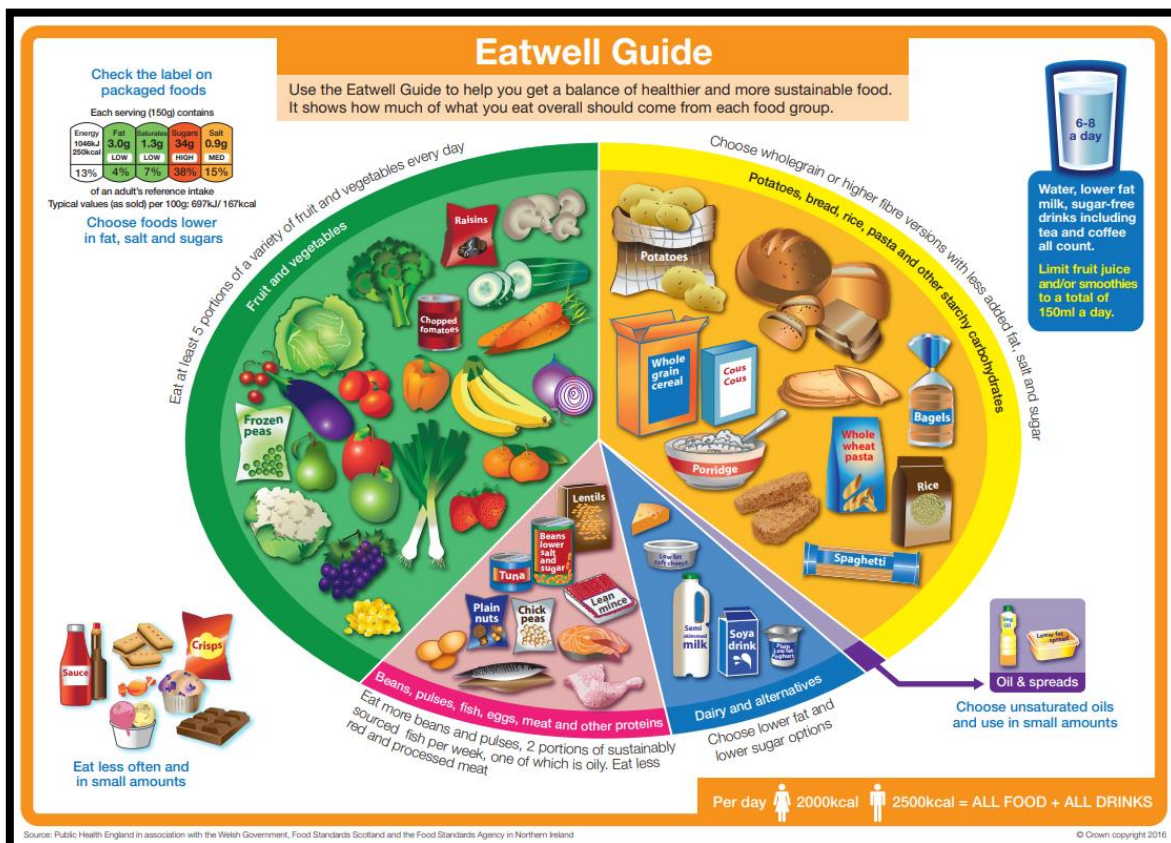
Packed lunches

- We do however acknowledge that some children might prefer a packed lunch.
- Dr Walker's Church of England Primary School is working toward a Healthy Schools accreditation and therefore promotes healthy food options

Healthy eating

The best model for learning about healthy eating is [The Eatwell Guide](#) from the NHS. It makes healthy eating easier to understand. It shows the types and amounts of foods which make up a nutritious and well-balanced diet. It can help children learn that to be healthy they need to select a variety of foods from the five food groups.

The [NHS Change4Life](#) has a guide for some healthy, balanced ideas.



Please refrain from packing the following in lunchboxes:

- crisps
- chocolates
- fizzy drinks and/or sugary drinks
- sweets

A balanced lunchbox should contain:

- starchy foods like bread, wholegrain rice, potatoes or wholegrain pasta;
- protein foods like meat, fish, eggs or beans;
- a dairy item, like cheese or yogurt;
- vegetables or salad; and
- a portion of fruit.

Pupils are encouraged to bring a labelled water bottle to school. This will be kept in class for pupils to drink from throughout the day.

Food allergens

- Ashlyns oversee the food preparation on site and uphold regulations regarding allergens, namely:
 - provide allergen information for both prepacked and non-prepacked food and drink and
 - handling and managing food allergens effectively in food preparation.

The 14 allergens are:

- **celery**,
- **cereals containing gluten** (such as wheat, barley and oats),
- **crustaceans** (such as prawns, crabs and lobsters),
- **eggs**,
- **fish**,
- **lupin**,
- **milk**,
- **molluscs** (such as mussels and oysters),
- **mustard**,
- **peanuts**,
- **sesame**,
- **soybeans**,
- **sulphur dioxide and sulphites** (if the sulphur dioxide and sulphites are at a concentration of more than ten parts per million) and
- **tree nuts** (such as almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts, brazil nuts, cashews, pecans, pistachios and macadamia nuts).

Free School Meals eligibility

Essex County Council processes free school meal applications for some Essex schools.

Please contact the school office for more information and support in applying for free school meals.

Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)

Children in reception, year 1 and year 2 automatically get free school meals. This is called [Universal infant free school meals \(UIFSM\)](#) and you do not need to apply for it.

If you are a low income family and your child will be using free school meals, please support the school by letting us know you are using the service. Dr Walker's Church of England Primary School will then be eligible to apply for more funding to support the provision of education for children in the school.

Low income family eligibility

This applies to children in years 3 – 6.

Your child may be eligible for free school meals if you are receiving any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (not Working Tax Credit), with an annual income below £16,190

- Pension Guarantee Credit
- Employment and Support Allowance, income related
- Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act, 1999
- Working Tax Credit run-on, paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit, with a household income of £7,400 or less (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

In accordance with national Department for Education advice, we cannot accept evidence of provisional tax awards.

Applying for Free School Meals

Your application will be refused if you're not receiving any of the listed benefits. Please consider this before applying.

For more information:

https://essex-self.achieveservice.com/service/Free_School_Meals_application

Pupil Premium

Pupil Premium is extra funding schools can claim for children from low income families.

[GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) has more information about the funding, including how schools should spend it.

School Monies and Payments

- Dr Walker's Church of England Primary School is a cashless school. All payments are taken online.
- The school makes use of **School Money** from Eduspot.
- Parents will be contacted to set up accounts via the school office.
- Please contact the School Office if you are having any difficulties making payments.

School Meals

- **School dinner is £2.45** per pupil.
- The School asks for payment in advance for school meals although we fully understand that occasionally this can be overlooked by busy parents.
- All school meals taken must be paid for in advance, by the Friday of the previous week.
- The School does not operate a payment in arrears system.
- Parents who don't want their child to have a school lunch should provide a healthy packed lunch or arrange to take their child home for lunch.
- Children will not be given a school lunch unless it is paid for, except those who are entitled to free school meals.
- Our debt policy allows a maximum of 5 meals to be owed (**currently £12.25**).

Note:

- If payment of the debt is still not received after what the school deem to be a reasonable amount of time, then the Headteacher reserves the right to inform Social Care that parents or carers are not providing food for their children at lunchtime.