



# Policy for Academy Food & Catering

*Version 0*

*Property & Estates*

*May 2014*

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# Policy for Pupil Academy Food & Catering

*This policy is formed from the Proposal Paper' Proposal for the Future Direction of Catering within OCL (revision 1 dated 28/5/14). This paper was presented to and approved by Steve Chalk; Joy Madeiros; John Fuller; John Murphy and Abbe Barnaby in May 2014.*

## 1.0 Introduction

Oasis are is responsible for feeding over 22,000 children in its Academies. With our planned expansion this may exceed 30,000. As our estate grows an increasing number of children will rely on us to provide a good quality nutritionally balanced meal and snack service.

Many of our Oasis Academies are in significantly deprived areas. We believe that a good quality school meal may be one of the few times many of our children receive a nutritionally balanced healthy meal, served in a dining environment in their day.

Research has proven the link between well balanced nutritional food, educational achievement and attainment.

Oasis aspire to align our food service to the aspirations of the school food plan:

[www.schoolfoodplan.com](http://www.schoolfoodplan.com)

## 2.0 Policy Statement

### 2.1 Delivery Mechanism of Catering Services

Academy food will be provided through the following routes:

- (i) an existing established and retained in-house approach
- (ii) a single national scale external provider

Where existing individual legacy catering contracts exist (from transfer), we will move to one of the above two approaches on expiry or earlier of the legacy arrangement, subject to due diligence.

If due diligence prohibits change to the above mechanisms, then the National Director and Academy Principal shall jointly conclude the most appropriate future approach.

Where an existing established and retained in-house approach is in operation, it shall comply with the following:

- (i) Zero subsidy
- (ii) Bronze (or higher) Soil Association accreditation for food
- (iii) Key criteria of the National scale external catering contract

Where existing established and retained in-house consistently fails to meet (i) to (iii) above the service will be moved into the national scale external catering contract.

## **2.2 Minimum Food Standards Requirement**

All pupil food shall be compliant to 'The requirements for School Food Regulations 2014' and associated DfE guidance 'School Food in England, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015'.

Portion sizes shall be those not less set out by the Childrens Food Trust:

[www.childrensfoodtrust.org.uk/schools/the-standards](http://www.childrensfoodtrust.org.uk/schools/the-standards)

All food supplied as part of the service shall be fully traceable in providence through all transits and transactions back to first original source.

## **2.3 Aspirational Food & Other Standards**

Oasis aspire to higher than minimum food standards.

Oasis academies should aspire to achieve recognised higher food standards such as Bronze, Silver and Gold Soil Association accreditations.

Menu choice for pupil food shall reflect local and regional variations.

Student feedback on the food choice and quality should be sought regularly to shape continuous improvement and menu change.

The Academy Council should be engaged to sample and feedback on food choice and quality.

The Academy should form a student representative body to review and feedback on food choice and quality.

Academies should consider lunchbox audits to ensure a level of healthy eating sourced from home is maintained.

## **2.4 Other Relevant Minimum Standards**

The service at all times shall comply with the requirements of a compliant service covered by the following legislation and published guidance:

Compliance to:

- (i) Food Safety Act 1990 and subsequent 2006 EU Food Hygiene Regulations
- (ii) Health & Safety at Works Act
- (iii) Food and Labelling Regulations 1996

## **2.5 Uptake of School Food**

Increased uptake supports a reduced or zero subsidised food service.

A policy target of not less than 70% uptake of hot school lunches is set. Both the catering team and Academy are jointly responsible for taking measures and approaches to support the policy target.

The Academy shall carefully consider any changes to the service, operation, layout, and operations that may have a negative effect on achieving this target.

## **2.6 Subsidised Pupil Food**

Oasis Academies should aspire to have a zero subsidy food service through enhanced uptake of school food of not less than 70%.

## **3.0 Policy Clarifications**

### **3.1 Food**

Within this policy food is defined as all and any food served at any time during before or after the school day to pupils. Pupils include those within nursery and 6<sup>th</sup> form.

### **3.2 Packed Lunch Policy**

For infants in year reception, year 1 and year 2 of Primary school, packed lunches are not to be permitted. The exception to this policy is individual for pupils where they have a registered food allergy, dietary or other medical reason, supported by a doctor's letter, meaning they are unable to eat a hot lunch meal.

This approach aligns to published Government policy and guidance to increase uptake of hot meals for lunch.

It should be noted: government research has shown only 1% of packed lunches meet nutritional standards for school food, and over two thirds contain sugary drinks.

### **3.3 Halal Meat**

Aligned to local community needs, halal meat can be sourced, prepared and served to specific needs.

Halal meal shall be sourced only from certified sources where humane approaches to slaughter have been used e.g. pre-stunned. Meat from non-certified sources are not to be used.

### **3.4 Catering & Uptake Statistics**

Each Oasis Academy shall collect, review and interrogate catering data to support activities to target improved uptake of the food service.

### **3.5 Cashless Catering**

A cashless catering system networked to the national Oasis reporting system/approach is preferred.

A cashless system (with online top up) is the Oasis preferred system for payment.

### **3.6 Doing Our Bit**

We encourage Academies to join the 'Food for Life Partnership' to support embedding food at the heart of the school life and pupils experiences.

[www.foodforlife.org.uk](http://www.foodforlife.org.uk)

Improved school food cannot be achieved in isolation from the main school operation. Therefore, Oasis Academies shall aspire to the approaches as recommended by the School food plan:

[www.schoolfoodplan.com/checklist/](http://www.schoolfoodplan.com/checklist/)