

Alexandra Academy Trust



School Food Policy

Date policy last reviewed: Autumn 2026

Date next review is due: Autumn 2029

Signed:

P Simpson (CEO)

A Guildford (Chair of Trustees)

Date 24.3.2026

ALEXANDRA ACADEMY TRUST SCHOOL FOOD POLICY

1. Responsibilities

- 1.1 The Alexandra Academy Trust recognises the important connection between a healthy diet and a pupil's ability to learn effectively and achieve high standards in school. They also recognise the role a school can play, as part of the larger community, to promote family health and sustainable food and farming practices.
- 1.2 The Alexandra Academy Trust recognises that sharing food is a fundamental experience for all people; a primary way to nurture and celebrate our cultural diversity; and an excellent bridge for building friendships, and inter-generational bonds.

2. Rationale and Approach

- 2.1 All schools within the Alexandra Academy Trust are healthy schools. The educational mission is to improve the health of the entire community by teaching pupils and families' ways to establish and maintain life-long healthy eating habits. The mission shall be accomplished through a pupil centred food service that takes account of all legislative and practical needs.

All stakeholders will play a major part in the overall success of our foodservice through an absolute focus on fresh, appetising and popular food, served by a motivated and well-supported catering team working in harmony with pupils and staff. Our decision to transfer services to 'In-House' status in September 2024 was geared to give schools greater control of policy and through this to improve food standards. In doing so, we recognised our obligations to adhere to current, pending and planned guidelines relating to school meals and recognised that, in their adoption and introduction, due account and consultation will take place with all stakeholders to understand the consequence of any change.

Since September 2024 our food offer and service strategy has surpassed legislative requirements and has 'maximum consumption of healthy food' at its core. To this end significant investment has been made into the production and service areas. Into the future we will protect this custom as a priority and all means at our disposal will be used to dissuade pupils from eating or bringing in unhealthy foods. To this end we will adhere to and embrace all legislation geared to improving the healthy status of foods consumed. Where blanket legislation results in outlawing the service we will find means of achieving the aims of the legislation whilst adhering to the

spirit. A portfolio and evidence record will be maintained to demonstrate achievement of the legislative aims and turnover levels.

3. Aims of our Policy

- 3.1 To improve the health of pupils, staff and their families by helping to influence their eating habits through increasing their knowledge and awareness of food issues, including what constitutes a healthy and environmentally sustainable diet, and hygienic food preparation and storage methods.
- 3.2 To increase pupils' knowledge of food production, manufacturing, distribution and marketing practices, and their impact on both health and the environment.
- 3.3 To ensure pupils are well nourished at school, and that every pupil has access to safe, tasty, nutritious and popular food and a safe, easily available water supply during the school day.
- 3.4 To ensure that food provision in every school reflects the ethical and medical requirements of staff and pupils e.g. religious, ethnic, vegetarian, medical, and allergenic needs.
- 3.5 To make the provision and consumption of food an enjoyable and safe experience.
- 3.6 To introduce and promote practices within schools to reinforce these aims, and to remove or discourage practices that negate them.

4. Objectives of our Policy

- 4.1 To work towards ensuring that this policy is both accepted and embraced by all members of the Trust community.
- 4.2 To provide high quality meals for all schools at the best possible price
- 4.3 To ensure that the food and drinks service meets or surpasses government food standards in line with our comments under rationale and approach
- 4.4 To ensure that catering teams and all associated support staff are well trained and understand the background to and importance of our Trust's approach to healthy eating.
- 4.5 To engage and involve all stakeholders including parents/carers and staff in activities which promote balanced eating and enjoyment of fresh local food.
- 4.6 To integrate these aims into all aspects of school life, in particular
 - Food provision within each school
 - The curriculum
 - Pastoral and social activities

5. Methods that we will adopt will include

Establishing an effective structure to oversee the development, implementation, and monitoring of this policy and to encourage a participatory approach to meeting the objectives.

Continuing to develop the catering and production facilities on a phased basis and as earlier noted, taking into account compliance with legislation, financial dictates and ongoing ability to provide the level of food choice required.

Ensuring maximum usage levels by continually developing the service alongside pupil groups.

- 5.1 Develop an understanding and ethos within each school of safe, tasty, nutritious, environmentally sustainable food, through both education and example.
- 5.2 Create an environment, both physical and social, conducive to the enjoyment of safe, tasty, nutritious, environmentally sustainable food.
- 5.3 Help to promote and raise awareness of environmentally sustainable food production methods and socially responsible food marketing practices.

SUMMARY

This policy is part of a programme of positive change first started in 2024 when we moved from a council catering service to a fresh food service via conversion of the Trust's catering teams and service to an in-house remit. This yielded significant qualitative and financial benefits. From the outset our strategy has always been "to provide the best and most nourishing foodservice possible for our pupils". Impetus and focus driven by government regulations is welcomed as it has given us further tools and support to move further down the healthy path we started along a year ago. Where appropriate to do so we will consider the expansion of our service to include more schools – enabling the power of bulk buying (to varying degrees) which will impact on cost effectiveness. In all schools food waste is being reduced and disposal is in line with government legislation.