Our Whole-School Approach to Food

At PDET, we believe that good nutrition plays a vital role in supporting children's health, wellbeing, learning and achievement. We are committed to creating a positive food culture across our schools that encourages healthy choices, develops lifelong healthy eating habits and enables all pupils to enjoy a high-quality dining experience. Our catering service is provided in partnership with The Pantry, which delivers meals in accordance with the School Food Standards and the Food for Life Served Here Bronze standard.

Promoting Healthy Eating

We provide balanced, nutritious meals that are designed to appeal to children while supporting healthy growth and development. Daily menu choices include vegetarian and vegan options, fresh fruit, vegetables and salads, freshly baked bread, and a variety of main meal options. Water is freely available and milk is offered as part of the lunch service. Menus operate on a seasonal cycle and are regularly reviewed to maintain variety and nutritional balance.

Food Education

We recognise that learning about food is an important part of a child's education. Through our curriculum and wider school activities, pupils are encouraged to understand healthy eating, nutrition, food preparation and where food comes from. We work with our catering provider to promote themed food events, tasting opportunities and other activities that help children engage positively with food and make informed choices.

Inclusion and Special Diets

We are committed to ensuring that every child can access school meals safely. Robust allergen management procedures are in place and individual arrangements are made where required to meet medical and dietary needs. We work closely with parents, carers and our catering provider to support children who require special dietary menus, ensuring that appropriate meals are available and clearly managed.

Encouraging School Meal Uptake

We aim to make school meals an attractive, affordable and enjoyable option for all pupils. Through menu development, pupil engagement activities, themed days and regular feedback, we encourage children to try new foods and enjoy dining with their peers.

Sustainability and the Environment

As part of PDET's commitment to sustainability and the objectives of the Environment Act 2021, we seek to minimise the environmental impact of our food provision. This includes:

- Supporting the use of local suppliers where possible.
- Using seasonal produce to reduce food miles.
- Monitoring and reducing food waste and plate waste.
- Separating food and recyclable waste where possible.
- Reducing the use of single-use plastics.
- Using recyclable or compostable packaging where appropriate.
- Ensuring responsible disposal of food waste.
- Avoiding genetically modified and irradiated food products.

Working Together

We work in partnership with pupils, parents, staff and our catering provider to continually improve our food offer. By promoting healthy eating, providing nutritious meals and reducing the environmental impact of food provision, we aim to create a positive whole-school food culture that benefits both our pupils and the wider community.