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| EYFS: 3.47 – 3.49 |

At Little Saints Nursery we believe that snack times should be happy, social occasions for children and staff alike. We promote shared, enjoyable positive interactions at these times.

We are committed to offering children healthy, nutritious and balanced snacks which meet individual needs and requirements.

We will ensure that:

* A balanced and healthy daily snacks are provided for children attending Little Saints.
* We provide nutritious food at all snack and times, avoiding large quantities of fat, sugar, salt and artificial additives, preservatives and colourings
* Snacks will always include portions of fruit/vegetable sticks.
* Parents and children are consulted about preferred snacks.
* Children are to attend Little Saints with fresh drinking water in a suitable drinking bottle and juice is not allowed.
* Individual dietary requirements are respected. We gather information from parents regarding their children’s dietary needs, including any special dietary requirements, preferences and food allergies that a child has and any special health requirements, before a child starts or joins the nursery. Where appropriate we will carry out a risk assessment in the case of allergies and work alongside parents to put into place an individual dietary plan for their child
* We give careful consideration to seating to avoid cross contamination of food from child to child. An adult will sit with children during snack to ensure safety and minimise risks. Where appropriate, age/stage discussions will also take place with all children about allergies and potential risks to make them aware of the dangers of sharing certain foods.
* Staff show sensitivity in providing for children’s diets and allergies. They do not use a child’s diet or allergy as a label for the child, or make a child feel singled out because of her/his diet or allergy.
* Staff set a good example and eat with the children and show good table manners. Snack times are organised so that they are social occasions in which children and staff participate in small groups. During snack times children are encouraged to use their manners and say 'please' and 'thank you' and conversation is encouraged.
* Staff use snack times to help children to develop independence through making choices, serving food and drink, and feeding themselves. Staff support children to make healthy choices and understand the need for healthy eating.
* We provide foods from the diet of each of the children’s cultural backgrounds, providing children with familiar foods and introducing them to new ones. Cultural differences in eating habits are respected.
* Any child who shows signs of distress at being faced with a meal he/she does not like will have his/her food removed without any fuss.
* Children not on special diets are encouraged to eat a small piece of everything.
* Children are given time to eat at their own pace and not rushed.
* Quantities offered take account of the ages of the children being catered for in line with recommended portion sizes for babies and young children.
* We promote positive attitudes to healthy eating through play opportunities and discussions.
* No child is ever left alone when eating/drinking to minimise the risk of choking
* We will sometimes celebrate special occasions such as birthdays with the occasional treat of foods such as cake, sweets or biscuits. These will be given at snack time to prevent tooth decay and not spoil the child’s appetite. Where we have frequent birthdays and celebrations we consider other alternatives such as celebrating through smiles and praise, stickers and badges, choosing a favourite story, becoming a special helper, playing a party game, dancing and/or singing their favourite song.
* All staff who prepare and handle food are competent to do so and receive training in food hygiene which is updated every three years.
* In the very unlikely event of any food poisoning affecting two or more children on the premises, whether or not this may arise from food offered at the nursery, we will inform Ofsted as soon as reasonably practical and in all cases within 14 days . We will also inform the relevant health agencies and follow any advice given.

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| **This policy was adopted on** | **Signed on behalf of the nursery** | **Date for review** |
| *6th October 2020* | *L.Quigg* | *6th October 2022* |