



# **POLICY**

## **Safeguarding**

# **(Safer Eating)**

April 2025

Review 2027

## **Assunnah Primary School**

565A High Road | London | N17 6SB

T: 0208 350 0592

E: [admin@assunnahschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@assunnahschool.co.uk)

W: [www.assunnahschool.co.uk](http://www.assunnahschool.co.uk)

**School Manager:** Mohamed Yusuf

**Head Teacher:** Hodan Yussuf

# **POLICY: Safeguarding (Safer Eating)**

Policy Last Reviewed: 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

## **Policy Statement:**

The EYFS framework requires providers to take all necessary steps to keep children safe and well. It is important that early year's settings can provide safe eating environments for children, which means providing the right types and textures of food, having safe eating set ups and supervision, and taking proactive steps towards safeguarding mealtimes.

## **KNOWING THE CHILD**

### **Before A Child Begins Attending Assunnah Early Years Preschool:**

Before a child begins at Assunnah School and Early Years I, information about any special dietary requirements, preference and food allergies that a child has, and any special health requirements is obtained from parents/carers. Where required parents/carers are asked to attend a meeting to discuss requirements further prior to their child attending. All relevant information is recorded and stored on site, staff can refer to them through them being recorded/stored:

1. On the child's Registration Form.
  2. On lists displayed on the stage cupboard door or in the kitchen on the display board (Allergen list)/ cupboard door – these support staff to identify children with dietary requirements and allergies when preparing foods.
  3. On the child's individual name cards – these enable staff to identify children with dietary requirements or allergies at the delivery stage
  4. In the dietary/allergy record folder located in the cupboard on the stage in the main room.
  5. In the medical information folder located in the cupboard on the stage in the main room (if required – i.e. health care plan).
- All staff will be made aware of any special dietary needs or allergies.
  - Parents record if their child has any dietary rules of the religious groups to which their children and their parents belong. We take account of this information in the provision of their child's food and/or drinks.
  - Parents also record if their child is a vegetarian or vegan. We take account of this information in the provision of their child's food and/or drinks.
  - All staff will read the contents of any food carefully to check against the list of allergies.
  - A 'food/allergy action plan' will be carried out by parent/carer. *Details are provided in the 'Promoting Health and Hygiene: Managing children with allergies, or who are sick or infectious' policy.*
  - Staff shall liaise with parents/carers prior to any cooking or food tasting activities which involve food provided by the Preschool. To receive permission for the child to take part/arrange alternative ingredients if required to ensure all children are included.

Conversations about a child's needs remain ongoing throughout their time with us, and recorded information is updated as required – staff are informed of any changes.

## **ORGANISATION CULTURE**

### **Food Preparation:**

At Assunnah Primary School and Early Years, we have a small separate kitchen area, which is adequately equipped to provide healthy snacks, cooking activities and drinks for children as necessary. With limited kitchen space, children bring their own packed lunches and snacks with them for their sessions, so no meals are prepared by the team. There are suitable facilities for the hygienic preparation of food for children and staff preparing the food are Level 2 Food Hygiene trained.

Please see our policy – Health & Safety (Food and Drink) for more detailed information.

### **Staff Competency:**

At Assunnah Primary and Early Years, we ensure that staff responsible for preparing and handling food are competent to do so. In our setting all staff involved in preparing and handling food receive training in food hygiene and these qualifications are refreshed as per required.

A minimum of 2 (often more) Paediatric First Aiders are present during snack or lunch time. The EYFS requires that at least one person who has a current paediatric first aid certificate is always on the premises and available when children are present – we exceed this requirement. We ensure that:

- There are clear records and scheduling to ensure that there is Paediatric First Aider on premises all the time when the Preschool is open, and that all staff are aware of who the Paediatric First Aiders are and where to find them.
- Following new staff completing their Probationary period, we ensure that all permanent members of staff are qualified Paediatric First Aiders, and all renew their qualifications when required.
- The Paediatric First Aiders are in the immediate vicinity of children during eating times, all staff supervising or providing food are familiar with Paediatric First Aid advice for children who are choking.

### **Recording and Learning From Incidents:**

Whenever a child experiences an actual or potential choking incident this is recorded in the incident log and parents/carers are made aware, as per normal practice for other incidents/ injuries and proportionately to the severity of the incident.

Details such as where and how the child choked, what the outcome was, and what steps or lessons learned will be acted upon to minimise the risk of a similar incident happening again in future.

Incident logs are reviewed periodically to identify if there are trends or common features of incidents that could be addressed to reduce the risk of choking.

## **SAFEGUARDING AT SNACK/MEALTIMES**

Ensuring that eating times and spaces in settings are designed with safety in mind can reduce the risk of serious harm through choking whilst eating.

### **Eating Environment:**

Children at Assunnah Early Years are always seated in an appropriately sized low chair while eating. During snack time a designated eating space at a table is provided where distractions are minimised. At lunchtime all toys and activities are tidied away and all children are sat at a table with a small group of peers and one member of staff per table.

Children at Assunnah Early Years are never be left alone while they are eating and are closely always supervised. Staffing arrangements always meet the needs of all children and ensure their safety.

Children are closely always supervised, including whilst eating. With both DSLs and Paediatric First Aiders always present.

### **Responding to Choking:**

Preparing for the possibility of a child choking may ensure staff are ready to respond should it occur. Despite preventative measures, it is still possible for children to choke, and staff who are equipped to respond are most likely to be able to intervene safely and effect a positive resolution. Hence why at Assunnah Early Preschool we ensure all permanent members of staff are trained in Paediatric First Aid and we always have a minimum of two present.

First Aid boxes are easily accessible within the main room and kitchen, with appropriate content for use with children. All staff know where these are kept and all relevant staff are competent in the use of the contained equipment.

Contents of our First Aid and Burns Kits are checked regularly to ensure used or out-of-date items are replaced.

Clear emergency procedures and protocols are in place for administering first aid and for calling emergency services if required.

**PLEASE SEE OUR OTHER HEALTH & SAFETY (FOOD & DRINK) POLICY FOR ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR FOOD AND DRINK PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES.**

**This policy was written by:**

Assunnah Primary School  
Head

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**On:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025

**Date to be reviewed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
April 2027 or before if  
needed

**Signed on behalf of the provider:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hodan Yussuf

**Name of signatory:**

**Role of signatory (e.g. owner):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mohamed Yussuf  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Policy read and agreed by Staff Members: All Primary and Early Years Staff**