



Ormesby Village Infant and Junior Schools Federation

Safer Eating Policy 2026

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 Ormesby Village Infant School:

Before a child begins at Ormesby Village Infant School, 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 staff can refer to it through it being recorded/stored:

1. On the child's Registration Form.
2. On CPOMS and Pupil Asset.
3. On Allergen Lists for Catering Staff and School Staff
4. On a Healthcare Plan (If required)

These support staff to identify children with dietary requirements and allergies when preparing foods.

- 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.
- If required, a 'food/allergy action plan' will be carried out by parents/carers.
- Staff shall liaise with parents/carers prior to any cooking or food tasting activities which involve food provided by the kitchen staff. 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 Ormesby Village Infant School, we have a separate kitchen area, which is adequately equipped to provide healthy snacks, cooking activities and drinks for children as necessary. Some children bring their own packed lunches and snacks with them from home for their sessions, so no meals are prepared by the team. There are suitable facilities for the hygienic preparation of food for children and kitchen staff preparing the food are Level 2 Food Hygiene trained (Norse).

High Risk Foods:

The Government and NHS guidance specifically recommend:

- Grapes, cherry tomatoes and similar fruits should be cut lengthways and then quartered.
- Whole nuts should not be given to under-fives. However, we are a nut-free school so nuts are avoided.
- Popcorn, marshmallows, jelly cubes and hard sweets should not be given to young children.
- Sausages should be cut lengthways into thin strips.
- Firm fruit and vegetables should be sliced or softened appropriately.

Staff Competency:

At Ormesby Village Infant School, we ensure that staff responsible for preparing and handling food are competent to do so. In our setting, kitchen staff involved in preparing and handling food receive training in food hygiene and these qualifications are refreshed as per required. Kitchen staff are trained when required by Norse.

A Paediatric First Aider is 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 ensure that:

There are clear records and scheduling to ensure that there is Paediatric First Aider on premises all the time when the school is open and that all staff are aware of who the Paediatric First Aiders are and where to find them.

We ensure that all permanent members of staff are qualified Emergency First Aiders, and all renew their qualifications when required. New staff without first aid will be booked on to first aid training as soon as possible.

A Paediatric First Aider is in the 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 (CPOMS) 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 the 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 Ormesby Village Infant School are always seated in an appropriately sized low chair while eating. During snack time a designated eating space at a table or on the carpet is provided where

distractions are minimised. At lunchtime all children are sat at a table with a small group of peers and their class adults.

Children at Ormesby Village Infant School are never left alone while they are eating and are always supervised. Staffing arrangements always meet the needs of all children and ensure their safety wherever possible.

Children are always closely supervised, including whilst eating. With DSLs and 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 Ormesby Village Infant School we ensure all members of staff are trained in First Aid and we always ensure staff support one another through serious injuries.

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

Contents of our First Aid 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 POLICY FOR ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR FOOD AND DRINK PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES.

This policy was written by:

On: 2.9.2026

Date to be reviewed: September 2028 or before if required

Signed on behalf of the provider: Ormesby Village Infant School

Name of signatory: Bradley Young