**NEW HOPE-WORCESTER**

**FOOD AND DRINK POLICY**

**OUR AIMS**

We aim to work in partnership with our families and staff to support our children and young people to develop healthy eating practices which will become embedded for life, and to ensure that individual cultural, medical and dietary needs are met. We aim to raise awareness with our children, young people, parents/carers and staff to develop a positive, fun and exciting approach to food.

**WE WILL**

* We will offer a healthy option to the children at snack times.
* Ensure there is always fresh covered drinking water for the children at any time throughout the day.
* Ensure at least two members of staff have undergone food hygiene training.
* Always promote positive social interaction and social skills during snack time and meal times.
* Reflect food provision to support the medical, cultural, and religious needs of the children.
* Ensure group cooking sessions offer a variety of healthy food options and new tastes are actively encouraged.
* Consult our children, young people and parents/carers on food provision and healthy eating, seeking guidance if necessary from professionals.
* Always make sure we follow direction from parents/carers on food allergies or food not allowed to be given to children.

**FOOD AND DRINK**

New Hope-Worcester is committed to providing healthy, nutritious and tasty food and drink for children during our sessions. Managers and staff will make every effort to ensure that food and drink is safely prepared and sensitive to the dietary, religious and cultural requirements of the children.

* When preparing food and drink, staff will be mindful of the provisions of the hygiene policy so as to ensure that the safety of the staff and children are paramount. In addition to these provisions, staff will be careful to ensure both the safety of themselves and children when using sharp or dangerous equipment in food and drink preparation.
* Managers and staff are mindful of their responsibilities and obligations under the Food Safety Act 1990. All staff who either or prepare food have up to date Food Handling Certificates and are fully trained in food storage, preparation, cooking and food safety.
* As part of a child’s admission to New Hope-Worcester, we require that parents/carers complete a Getting to know me form, including information about any special dietary requirements or allergies the child suffers from, along with their food and drink preferences. Managers and staff will ensure that food and drink offered to children takes account of this information so as to safeguard their health, and meet – as far as possible- their particular preferences.
* No child will ever be forced to eat or drink something against their will and the withholding or granting of food and drink will never be used as either punishment or reward.
* Parents/carers will be notified in their child’s welcome pack that we are unable to place lunch boxes in the fridge, so they should be packed with ice packs in the lunch box and only suitable food should be sent in.
* Managers will notify OFSTED 08456 40 40 40 of any food poisoning affecting two or more children looked after on the premises. It is an offence not to comply with this requirement.

**CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY.**

* New Hope-Worcester is committed to embracing the cultural and religious diversity of the families who use our service. Managers and staff will work with parent/carers to ensure that any particular dietary requirements are met.