

# ISS UK&I School Food Standards

Date: April 2024

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this standard is to outline the requirements for school food standards in England.

## SCOPE

These standards apply to the UK ISS Education food business and govern the legislative standards for menus and nutrition in primary, secondary and SEN schools in England.

## STANDARD STATEMENT

ISS UK believes in and supports the ethos that developing a healthy diet and good eating habits early on will lay the foundations for future health. The ISS Education food business is committed to adhering to healthier catering guidance and the requirements set out in the School Food Plan as well as any current and future legislation.

As part of the School Food Plan, a new set of food standards (built on a nutritional framework) for all food served in schools was published. These school food standards are designed to help children develop healthy eating habits and ensure that they have the energy and nutrition they need to get the most from their whole school day.

Food served in all maintained schools and academies in England must meet school food standards so that children have healthy, balanced diets.

These standards make sure that school lunches always include:

- one or more portions of fruit and vegetables every day
- one or more portions of starchy food, such as bread or pasta every day
- a portion of food containing milk or dairy every day
- a portion of meat or poultry on 3 or more days each week
- oily fish once or more every 3 weeks

They severely restrict foods high in fat, salt, and sugar, as well as low quality reformed or reconstituted foods.

The UK&I education food business will adopt these standards as detailed in the Department for Education School Food Standards practical guide. Menus will be checked for compliance by the Nutrition team at every menu change and a school food compliance checklist issued.

ISS Classification - **Restricted - Internal**

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**PEOPLE MAKE PLACES**



The following additional standards will also apply in the UK education food business:

**Food For Life Served Here:**

ISS UK Schools business will provide menus that meet the 'Food for Life Served Here' bronze criteria to all primary schools.

## DEFINITIONS

**School Food Standards legislation:**

The Department for Education sets the standards for school food and is responsible for the requirements for school food regulations. Section 114A School Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires that food and drink provided to pupils at schools in England complies with certain nutritional standards. This standard applies across the whole school day, including breakfasts, morning breaks, tuck shops and after school clubs.

**School Food Plan:**

In July 2013 the Department for Education (DfE) published the School Food Plan (SFP) which sets out actions to transform what children and young people eat in schools and how they learn about food. As part of the SFP, a new set of standards (built on a nutritional framework) for all food served in schools were published and came into force 1st January 2015.<sup>2</sup> The plan is about:

- Good food.
- Happiness.
- Pleasures of growing, cooking and eating proper food.
- Improving academic performance, and
- The health of the nation.

**Food For Life Served Here:**

'Food for Life Served Here' is an independent endorsement, backed by annual inspections, for food providers who are taking steps to improve the food they serve. The aim of the scheme is to encourage and reward caterers who: serve fresh food, source environmentally sustainable and ethical food, make healthy eating easy, and champion local food producers. Food for Life Served Here applies only to food.

## REFERENCES

School Food Standards legislation: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2014/1603/made>

School Food Standards practical guide:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-food-standards-resources-for-schools/school-food-standards-practical-guide>

School Food Plan: <https://www.schoolfoodplan.com/plan/>

## CHANGE LOG

Date of Change	Author of Changes - Name and a Job Title	Short Summary of Changes
04.04.24	Linda Cregan Head of Food Sustainability & Education Catering	Created for DMS