

MAVISBANK SCHOOL

Policy on Eating & Drinking

Rationale:

It is the policy of the school that all snack and mealtimes for orally fed, gastrostomy fed pupils, will be organised and conducted in such a way as to provide a nutritionally appropriate, safe, sociable and pleasurable experience for each child.

Delivery:

1. Each child will be initially assessed for eating and drinking difficulties over a period of time. This will be carried out primarily by the Speech & Language Therapists in liaison with class staff, but where appropriate will include the school's multi-disciplinary team and child's own parents and dietician.

2. Staff training will be provided by Speech & Language Therapists qualified in Eating and Drinking.

a) New staff will be given initial training and support until trainers and staff feel confident.

b) Every staff member when trained will be given a Handbook in Eating & Drinking which contains guidelines and procedures which must be adhered to.

c) Class staff will share any changes in pupils' eating and drinking skills with the Speech & Language Therapist for further consideration

3. Seating & Positioning advice will be provided by the child's Occupational Therapist in liaison with the Speech & Language therapist

4. Each pupil will have his/her own Eating & Drinking profile advising on:

- a) Positioning
- b) Textures and Consistency
- c) Crockery / utensils
- d) Likes/Dislikes
- e) Any additional considerations

5 Targets for Eating & Drinking will be set for appropriate pupils and worked towards on a daily basis both at snack and lunchtimes.

These will be updated as appropriate by the Class Teachers in liaison with the Speech & Language Therapist.

Resources: Speech & Language Therapist (training & guidance)
Medical Personnel
Occupational Therapists
Parents
Dietician
Physiotherapist
Class staff

Reviewed: John Lochrie, Eileen McDonnell, Jacqueline Cairney
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