

Guidelines for preparation and serving food in relation to religious requirements of children.

Children have different cultural and religious backgrounds which may require for them to abstain from eating certain types of food and drink. Information provided below will help staff dealing with food in schools.

Please seek advice from the head teacher when in doubt. Thank you

- Hindu children are not permitted to eat beef.
- Muslim children are not permitted to eat pork or any products derived from a pig.

They can eat other types of meat such as lamb, beef, chicken, duck, turkey provided it has been prepared according to Islamic methods. This type of food is called **Halal** which means permissible.

- Sikh children are not permitted to eat Halal meat.

Care must be taken when preparing food in the kitchen so that:

- Same surfaces are not used for chopping and slicing meat and vegetables or they must be washed thoroughly in between.
- It is good practise to have designated chopping boards or work surfaces for meat and vegetables.
- Halal meat products must not be placed on the same surface as other meat products unless they have been washed after use.
- Different knives are used for chopping and slicing meat, and vegetables or washed thoroughly in between.
- Ladles and spoons should be kept separate for vegetables and meat and they must not rest on the same surface.
- Separate ladles and spoons should be used for Halal foods and they must not rest on the same surface as other meat products.

Care must be taken as not to contaminate food products through hands, aprons or transferring one type of food into another container previously used for a different type of food.

The thermometer used to check food temperature should be washed and cleaned thoroughly before inserting into another type of food.

When serving food the following should be kept in mind;

- Separate serving spoons should be used to serve vegetarian, meat or Halal option and care must be taken to avoid touching vegetable serving spoons on children's plates as they may have gravy or other meat juices on their plates.
- Avoid taking back unwanted food from children's plates as they may have been in contact with types of food not eaten by other children.
- Care must be taken when serving across the table so that juices from one type of dish do not spill onto another.