

# **Kincraig Primary School and Nursery**



## **Food Play Policy**



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### **Food Play including the use of raw flour**

At Kinraig Primary School and Nursery we ensure any food we use for play with the children is carefully supervised.

We will not use food in play unless it enhances the opportunities children are receiving from the activity. Many of the food will be reused in other activities, especially the dry materials.

We use the following procedures to ensure children are kept safe:

- Choking hazards are checked and avoided
- We do not use whole jelly cubes for play. If we do use jelly to enhance our play then all jelly will be prepared with water as per the instructions and then used
- Small objects such as dried pasta and pulses will only be used for older children and under supervision
- All allergies and intolerances will be checked, and activities will be adapted to suit all children's needs so no child is excluded
- All activities including food will be included on the planning sheets showing all allergens, so all staff and parents are aware of the ingredients
- Children's allergies will be visible to staff when placing out food play activities to ensure all needs are met
- Any cooking activities will be checked prior to start to ensure all children are able use all the ingredients based on their individual needs.

Following the guidance from the Food Standards Agency in relation to the use of raw flour products (including wheat, gluten free, corn, gram, and rice flour) in play, Kinraig Primary School and nursery have put the following guidance and procedures in place.

#### **Is uncooked flour safe to eat?**

Getting ill from uncooked flour or flour products is rare as they are mostly used as an ingredient in foods to be baked or cooked, however within nursery and school, there are occasions whereby staff will use raw flour in the sensory areas and in making salt dough and play-doh.

Food poisoning bacteria have been found in raw flour and there are examples from other countries where similar products have been linked to outbreaks of illness and food contamination. Therefore at Kinraig Primary School and Nursery we have taken the following step to minimise the risk when using raw flour products.

From the research, it suggests that thoroughly cooking raw flour products makes uncooked flour safe to eat and therefore less of a risk.

They should also take care when handling flour and flour products and follow the advice on the 4Cs: cooking, cleaning, chilling and avoiding cross contamination.

Within the nursery raw flour products should not be used unless the following has happened:

All flour needs to be **HEAT TREATED:**

- Do not eat or taste uncooked flour or flour products, such as pastry, cookie dough, pizza dough and batter, such as cake mix, unless labelling indicates they are ready to eat
- All raw flour and flour mixes (e.g. bread or cake mix) need to be stored in a sealed container, labelled and placed away from other food products.
- When preparing flour products, ensure you have a clean and clear surface, and hands have been thoroughly washed to avoid cross contamination with any other food products or equipment.
- Place the amount of flour needed from the container into the specific flour bowl and place in the microwave on full heat for 30 seconds. Once completed, take out and repeat the process until the full bowl of flour reaches a thorough heat of 165oC.
- Once at this temperature throughout, place the heat-treated flour in the container labelled heat treated.
- The areas then need to be thoroughly wash down with soap and warm water, and disinfected. All utensils used in the process need to be washed thoroughly and placed separately away.

This policy was last updated on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025. The Food Play Policy at KinCraig Primary School and Nursery will be reviewed and modified on a regular basis at least every two years. It is possible to add amendments to this document prior to a review and these will be incorporated into the next issue. To add comments please complete the information on the following sheet adding the date and signing where indicated.

Name of teacher responsible – Miss Lucy Cross and Miss Nicole Caldwell

Policy approved by Governors: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Proposed Amendment	<i>Signed</i>

