Halal food in Camden’s schools
What is Halal food?

Halal means permitted, allowed, lawful or legal according to the Islamic dietary laws. Halal food means food and drinks which Muslims are allowed to have. Halal food includes:

- Milk (from cows, sheep, camels and goats).
- Honey.
- Fish.
- Plants, which are not harmful to people.
- Fresh or naturally frozen vegetables.
- Fresh or dried fruits.
- Nuts such as peanuts, walnuts or cashew nuts.
- Grains such as wheat, rice, rye, barley and oats.

Meat from animals such as cows, sheep, chickens, turkeys and ducks is also Halal. But it has to be slaughtered and processed in accordance with Islamic dietary law.

Although nuts and dried fruit are Halal, nuts will not be served in Camden schools because of our nut allergy policy.

What can Camden schools offer?

The Council can provide a high quality school meal service by using either non-Halal meat or Halal meat. The Halal service is offered in those schools where the Governors have agreed to it, after consulting with parents.

Whilst meeting the specific needs of Muslim pupils, dishes cooked with Halal meat would also be suitable for most non-Muslim children to eat. In addition to whichever option the Governing Body and the school community chooses, there is also a very good selection of vegetarian dishes available on a daily
basis alongside the meat options. Choices for both the Halal and non-Halal options would include stews, homemade burgers and many European, Asian or Middle Eastern dishes. At the back of this leaflet is a typical menu currently available in Camden schools for both options.

How will food be prepared?

For the halal meals service, we will make sure that:

1. Halal dishes are prepared and served according to Islamic rules.
2. Our contractors are required to conform to those rules.
3. Fat and oils are from vegetable sources only.
4. All additives, preservatives, gelatine or gelling agents and colouring are Halal approved.
5. Red meat and poultry have been slaughtered as Islamic law says.
6. Our contractors buy meat from approved Halal suppliers

All food used to prepare halal meals will be certified to Halal Food Authority standards and will follow the requirements of the Food Standards Authority.

What will happen in the future?

Camden will continue discussing the Halal meals service with representatives from the Muslim community in Camden, schools and our contractors to make sure that this policy is working. We want to shape our services based on the needs of all our communities in Camden.
There are tasting sessions held in many of our schools. If you would like to know more about these or have any further questions about Halal food, please contact your school. You can see a copy of the Policy and Guidance Statement on Halal Provision within School Meals in Camden, by contacting Property and Contracts Service at the address below.

If you would like the Halal Food in Camden’s Schools leaflet in large print, Braille, on audiotape or in another language, please phone 020 7974 1875.

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Published June 2007