



SHARING OF FOOD POLICY

PURPOSE

It is important to minimise the risk to students at this school who have allergies and anaphylactic reactions. A “Sharing of Food” policy will help to reduce the risk to such students. Such a policy can also be considered to assist in the general health and hygiene of students.

BROAD GUIDELINES

- All members of the school community need to be aware that students are not to swap or share food and can only eat food provided or approved by their parents/caregivers.
- All staff must take on the responsibility for educating parents and students on the reasons for and details of this policy.
- Staff will be in serviced as required on this issue.

IMPLEMENTATION

- At the beginning of each year the school will inform parents of the “Sharing of Food” policy in the school newsletter.
- Food allergies are very common amongst the student population. As a result Mernda Primary enforces a ‘No Nuts Policy’. No food items with nut or nut elements are to be used within the school premises.
- When children celebrate a birthday, food items are not permitted for the whole class, e.g. a container of cupcakes. This applies to all foods. In place of food parents can provide students with a different experience, an item or an unusual treat, i.e. party hats, drink bottle to keep, etc.
- A wide variety of learning and school based activities may include the handling of food. Notification will be given of any foods used during these activities as part of the classroom or wider school program.
- The school canteen will provide food for students which comply with the ‘Healthy Together Whittlesea program and be ‘Nut Free’.
- Foods and drinks used in fundraising or classroom cooking events where students are directly engaged in the activity and/or are the main target of the activity are based on a balanced diet according to the five basic food groups.
- Details will be provided to class teachers regarding student allergies. This information must be considered by the teacher at special times such as class parties, school camps and sleepovers. A note outlining specific celebrations will be sent home, this note must be returned and signed for students to participate.
- Teachers will be reminded of this policy at the first staff meeting each year and encouraged to plan a session with their class to educate the students about the policy and reasons why food sharing is not a safe practice.
- Students are not permitted to share food. Students will be reminded by teachers about not sharing or swapping food at appropriate times such as morning snack time and lunch times.
- If students are found to have been sharing or swapping food, they will be counselled on the issue by the class teacher.

- If in any one year a child, staff member or parent has a severe reaction to a particular food, it may be required to exclude this food from the school premises.
- Should students continue to disregard the rules regarding the sharing or swapping of food, their parents will be informed and the matter will be treated as a breach of school rules and come under the school's 'Behaviour Management Policy' procedures.

EVALUATION

Feedback from parents and teachers will be used as a guideline to the effectiveness of this policy.

This policy will be reviewed as part of the three year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on	23 rd August 2017
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