



Help for Non-English Speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Kalinda Primary School on (03) 9876 3289.

FOOD SHARING POLICY

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the rules and procedures we have in place in relation to the sharing of food at school.

RATIONALE

Good nutrition is a critical part of every child's short and long-term health, as well as their physical and cognitive development. The school can play an integral role in supporting our community to promote lifelong healthy eating.

At Kalinda Primary School there are a number of children with food allergies. We have children who suffer from severe allergic reaction to a range of different foods. In some cases skin contact can trigger an allergic reaction which may be life threatening. To ensure the safety of these children Kalinda Primary School adopts a no food sharing policy across the school, excepting the SAKG program, supervised classroom experiences and special events that have prior approval from the Principal.

Kalinda PS will:

- To promote healthy eating and drinking habits.
- To provide a supportive environment for healthy eating.
- To provide consistent and supportive messages to encourage good nutrition.
- To minimise circumstances where a food allergy or intolerance may be triggered.
- To ensure that the use of food is specifically targeted for educational purposes or to celebrate extraordinary occasions.

POLICY GUIDELINES

- Students across the school are not permitted to share their own food at any time.
- Gifts and rewards given by staff members will not include food items.
- Throughout the year there will be occasions when students will be involved in shared food experiences within the classroom. These activities may be related to curriculum studies or an extraordinary special celebration. At all times, hygienic practises will be followed. To help ensure the safety of children during these activities parents will always be notified prior to the event or lesson that involves food. In this case the parents will be given the opportunity to opt out of the event or opportunity. Teaching teams will seek approval for such experiences from the Leadership team.
- If a family opts out of an event or experience involving food, Kalinda Primary School staff will make every effort to make sure that the individual child is included in an alternative way.



On special occasions such as birthdays and Christmas the sharing of food is discouraged. This minimises the onus on staff to monitor student allergies and family preferences. This also minimises the possibility that a student feels excluded or disappointed. More specifically:

- Where a student wishes to celebrate a birthday with their classmates, food items will not be allowed to be shared.
- At Christmas and Easter, the giving of lollies, chocolate and candy canes will be discouraged.

RELATED POLICIES

- [Anaphylaxis Policy DET](#)
- [Asthma Policy DET](#)
- [Duty of Care Policy DET](#)
- [Health Care Needs Policy DET](#)

OTHER RESOURCES

- Allergies & Anaphylaxis Australia - about living with anaphylaxis
- ASCIA Guidelines - for prevention of anaphylaxis in schools, preschools and childcare
- Royal Children's Hospital: Department of Allergy and Immunology
- Royal Children's Hospital - Anaphylaxis Support Advisory Line - for all school allergy and anaphylaxis management enquiries, (including the implementation of Ministerial Order 706).
- The advisory line is available between the hours of 8.30 am to 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday. Phone 1300 725 911 or (03) 9345 4235.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	March 2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	March 2026