

FOOD SHARING POLICY



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COLLEGE IDENTITY AND VALUES

Plenty Valley Christian College (the college) is a Christ-centred college that pursues excellence in education and character, daring our students to be engaged, equipped, and empowered to transform their communities, local and global.

Plenty Valley Christian College is an independent co-educational, Kinder – Year 12 College. The college is a member of Christian Education National, a national partnership of Christian schools whose core values align with ours in:

- celebrating the lordship of Christ over all of life;
- positioning the gospel rather than cultural forces as the primary shaper of how we think and live;
- affirming the role of parents as having responsibility to ensure their children are educated within this understanding.

The college seeks to operate and employ the principles, practices and values of a Christian theology and tradition to underpin, be integral to and formational in all relationships, activities and learning.

1 Purpose of this policy

- 1.1 In an effort to be more health and safety conscious, Plenty Valley Christian College (PVCC) has adopted a “No Food Sharing” practice for primary students and controls around the sharing of food in the secondary school. This practice will not infringe on the food that parents provide for their own child.
- 1.2 The health and wellbeing of our students is a paramount concern to us. Our commitment to the inclusiveness of all children and their safety is behind our policy of not sharing home prepared food.
- 1.3 Plenty Valley Christian College (PVCC) does not have a ‘No Nuts Policy’ and focusses on educating all children about allergies. As students mature the college expects that they take a greater role in managing their allergies and food intolerances.
- 1.4 This policy has been developed to assist in:
 - 1.4.1 Maintaining good health and hygiene of students;
 - 1.4.2 Ensuring food that is shared is prepared according to health and safety standards;
 - 1.4.3 parents understanding food safety considerations and standards when supplying food for their child at school;
 - 1.4.4 Reduce the risk to students who have allergies and anaphylactic reactions; and

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- 1.4.5 Allow easy identification of ingredients by only sharing pre-packaged foods or specifically approved prepared food with clear ingredients, allergen warnings and identifying any potential risk for consumption.

2 Policy

- 2.1 Staff, students and parents will take reasonable action to ensure:
 - 2.1.1 No food sharing or trading takes place in the primary school with special attention to recess or lunch time;
 - 2.1.2 All food provided for classroom parties or birthday celebrations for primary and middle school must be purchased from a commercial supplier (e.g. Woolworths, Coles or a bakery etc.) and contain an ingredients label identifying known allergens.
 - 2.1.3 No home-cooked or prepared food is to be shared in primary or middle school classrooms; and
 - 2.1.4 No home prepared food to be given as classroom rewards i.e. only pre-packaged items should be used in concert with policy and practice.
- 2.2 Fruit, vegetables and other foods prepared at school by staff, or under supervision of staff, are exempt.
- 2.3 All members of the school community students, parents and staff are to be aware of this policy and that primary and middle school students are not to swap or share food.
- 2.4 All staff on duty are made aware of every child with life-threatening food allergies. This includes on school excursions, yard duty, camps and special event days. A photograph of each child is displayed in a place where staff have access, such as the staff room.
- 2.5 Parents of a child with a life-threatening food allergy are to be informed 3 days in advance when a food-sharing activity is to be included in the curriculum, such as cooking in the classroom. They will be given the opportunity to provide alternative foods for their child.
- 2.6 If planned food sharing activities are planned as part of a college activity (e.g. celebration days) in the senior school parents of those involved will be informed and prepared food must have a list of all ingredients used in the preparation.
- 2.7 All staff are responsible for educating parents and students on the reasons for and details of this policy.

3 Implementation

- 3.1 At the beginning of each year the school will inform parents of the 'Food Sharing Policy' in the school newsletter.
- 3.2 A variety of learning and school-based experiences may include the handling of food. In primary three day's notification will be given to parents of children with life threatening food allergies of any foods used during these activities as part of the classroom or wider school program.

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- 3.3 When children celebrate a birthday, parents, with the agreement of the college, may provide students with packaged labelled foods (such as a lollipop or bought cupcakes), a different experience, an item or an unusual treat, i.e. party hats, drink bottle to keep, etc.
- 3.4 Parents of children with allergies are invited to provide a 'treat box' with treats their child may consume if the class is provided with a treat the child cannot eat.
- 3.5 Details will be provided to class teachers regarding student allergies. Class teachers must consider this information at special times such as class parties, school camps and sleepovers.
- 3.6 Specialist teachers are to seek the advice of class teachers about student allergies prior to undertaking any food-related activity and ensure the activity complies with this policy.
- 3.7 Parents of students with allergies will be contacted verbally by the relevant teacher informing them of celebrations or cooking and a copy of any recipes or ingredient lists of processed foods will be sent home 3 days prior to any activity.
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 If students are found to have been sharing or swapping food, they will be counselled on the issue by the class teacher.
- 3.10 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 expectations under the Behavioural Management Policy.

4 Scope

- 4.1 The application of this policy is relevant to the governing board, executive principal, principals and to school staff, students and parents.

5 Related Policies and Procedures

This policy is to be read in conjunction with:

- 5.1 Food Safety Policy
- 5.2 Food Safety Procedure
- 5.3 OHS - Anaphylaxis Management Policy
- 5.4 Behavioural Management Policy

6 Communication of the policy

- 6.1 At the beginning of each year the school will inform parents of the 'Food Sharing Policy' in the school newsletter.

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6.2 The school will communicate the timing of activities, camps and excursions policy to students, staff and parents and ensure that key food information is included along with the expectation of not sharing food according to this policy.

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DOCUMENT HISTORY AND VERSION CONTROL RECORD

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Responsible officer: Executive Principal

Approved by: John Metcalfe

Assigned review period: 3 years

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Category: Staff and Community

Version number	Version date	Responsible officer	Amendment details
1.0	10/04/2025	Executive Principal	New policy
1.1	08/09/2025	Executive Principal	Adjustments to allow food sharing in sanctioned contexts like Food Technology and arranged functions for secondary students

Approved by:



John Metcalfe
Executive Principal