



# Food Sharing Policy

## Rationale

In an effort to be more health and safety conscious, Bonbeach Primary School has adopted a “No Food Sharing” Practice. This practice will not infringe on the food that parents provide for their own child.

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 no sharing of home cooked food.

This policy is designed to raise staff, student and school community awareness about severe allergies. This policy has been designed to limit potential dangers of exposure to life threatening food allergies and to reduce cross contamination between different foods for students and staff.

Although allergies are on the rise, Bonbeach Primary School does not have a ‘No Nuts Policy’ and focusses on educating all children about allergies.

## Purpose

This policy has been developed to:

- Maintain good health and hygiene of students;
- Ensure food shared is prepared according to health and safety standards;
- Parents understand food safety standards when bringing food to school;
- Minimise the risk to students at this school who have allergies and anaphylactic reactions; and
- Allow easy identification of ingredients by encouraging pre-packaged foods as they have clear, documented allergen warnings and identify any potential risk.

## Related Policies

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Healthy Eating Policy, the Anaphylaxis Policy.

## Policy

Staff, students and parents need to ensure there is:

- No food sharing or trading during snack or lunch time;
- All food provided for classroom parties or for birthday celebrations must be purchased from a commercial supplier (e.g. Woolworths, Coles or a bakery etc.) and contain an ingredients label identifying known allergens;
- No home-cooked or prepared food is to be shared in the classroom with other students; and
- No home prepared food to be given as classroom rewards, only pre-packaged.

Fruit and vegetables prepared at school by staff, or under supervision of staff, are exempt.

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.

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.

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 are given the opportunity to provide alternative foods for their child.

All staff are responsible for educating parents and students on the reasons for and details of this policy.

### **Implementation:**

- At the beginning of each year the school will inform parents of the 'Food Sharing Policy' in the school newsletter.
- When children celebrate a birthday, home-cooked food items are not permitted to be provided for the whole class, e.g. a container of cupcakes. This applies to all home-cooked and prepared foods. Parents can provide students with bought packaged foods (such as a lollypop or bought cupcakes), a different experience, an item or an unusual treat, i.e. party hats, drink bottle to keep, etc.
- 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. Parents of children with allergies may also have access to the freezers at the school to store cupcakes so that they are on hand if needed.
- A wide variety of learning and school based activities may include the handling of food. 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.
- The school canteen will provide food for students which comply with the Bonbeach Primary School Healthy Eating Policy.
- In accordance with the Healthy Eating Policy, 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. Class teachers must consider this information at special times such as class parties, school camps and sleepovers.
- 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 and other related policies.
- Students with allergies will be contacted verbally by the relevant teacher informing them of celebrations or cooking and a copy of any recipes to be used will be sent home 3 days prior to any activity.
- 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.
- 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 'Student Engagement Policy'.

### **Review Cycle**

This policy was last updated in April 2021 and is scheduled for review in April 2024.