



Food Sharing Policy

Description

At Apollo Parkways Primary School there are a number of children with food allergies. We have children who suffer from severe allergic reactions to a range of different foods, in particular nut products. In some cases skin contact can trigger an allergic reaction which may be life threatening. In line with COVID19 considerations for safety, DET School Operational Guidelines require schools to restrict any food sharing amongst students.

To ensure the safety of these children Apollo Parkways Primary School adopts a no food sharing policy across the school, excepting supervised classroom experiences which require Leadership Approval and strict protocols are to be adhered to.

If you do not understand any of the following guidelines or wish to discuss any concerns you have, please, contact our school on,

- phone: 03 9433 1300
- email: apollo.parkways.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Guidelines

Upon enrolment parents are required to detail any known food allergies and provide a medically endorsed Emergency Management Plan to support management of their child's condition at school. The Food Sharing Policy guidelines are:

- Each year all staff (teachers and education support staff) are trained in the administration of an EpiPen. This training uses materials provided by the Department of Education & Early Childhood Development.
- In classes where children are identified with significant food allergies all parents will be notified via Compass and requested to cooperate in this management plan and refrain from sending food that may contain the relevant allergen.
- Orders through the canteen cannot include additional items for friends. This includes icy poles.
- Camp menus are shared with parents of students with allergies and all allergies are catered for and overseen by staff members who have access to medical documentation at all times.
- During parent supervised out of hours school events, the onus will be on parents/guardians to oversee students with allergies.
- Celebrations such as birthdays can no longer be celebrated with the sharing of any edible treats with the class. Non edible items such as small toys/ pencils etc may be an option if parents wish children to mark a birthday in this way.
- End of year grade parties will no longer be a shared food experience, rather a picnic day where students bring along their own special lunch.

Throughout the year there may be occasions when students are involved in shared food experiences within the classroom as part of the curriculum.



This includes:

- All activities involving food will first require Leadership Approval by providing information including the purpose of the activity, ingredients and a list of students with food allergies.
- A shared food experiences note will be sent home to parents notifying them that this will be occurring in their child's class.
- Contact will be made with parents of students to ensure all risks have been considered and they are well catered for.
- When identifying risks, teachers will discuss with parents the use of an orange wrist band which identifies the child as having a food allergy. The recognition of these bands is shared amongst all staff and the use of these bands carries over to the excursion and camp programs.

Review cycle

This policy was last updated on 18th March, 2021 and is scheduled for review in March 2023.