

# Food at School Policy

The Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy Inc has provided some very useful guidelines for the development of the school's Policy in this area. This information is supported by information from Medical Specialists and an examination of practices at other schools.

The web site [www.allergy.org.au](http://www.allergy.org.au) may be of interest to parents and carers. This site is provided as a reference in the DET Guidelines for Schools. Information quoted below is taken from this site:

“Whilst it is primarily the responsibility of parents that the child is taught to care for themselves, the school also has a role to implement the care plan and reinforce appropriate avoidance and management strategies.”

“Risk minimization with regard to particular foods (peanuts and tree nuts) is indicated, however the implementation of blanket food bans or attempts to prohibit the entry of food substances into schools are not recommended.”

“For schools where there are children with severe allergies to nuts (peanuts and tree nuts) a risk minimization policy for school canteens should be implemented. This involves removal of items with the relevant nut as an ingredient, but does not apply to those foods labeled ‘may contain traces of nuts’.”

One of the important issues raised by experts in this area centres on the need to avoid creating an artificial situation where complacency can arise. It is felt that it is better to introduce risk management strategies including the minimization of the availability of certain foods.

## Food at School

**Parents are requested NOT to include any food products containing Nuts (Any type of nuts, Peanut Butter, Nutella, Museli Bars etc) with food brought to school.**

**Food labeled “May Contain Traces of Nuts” can be brought to school.**

In 2012, more than 8 of our students are allergic to Nuts. Some of these students are also allergic to other food products.

Under this amended policy the Canteen will once again sell dairy products.

The school has established a number of “Food Free Zones” as part of its risk minimization strategies. There are also procedures established for the storage of lunches, the washing of hands and the rinsing of mouths as part of these strategies.

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# Acceptable Foods at School

Only foods containing Nuts have been removed from the Canteen and are requested not to be brought to school.

The school's Munch and Crunch Program will continue in 2012 and emphasises the eating of fruit and vegetables as part of a healthy diet.

Sandwich fillings may include cheese and other dairy products (unless requested otherwise in a separate class letter). Cheese snacks, chips and other snacks may also be brought as long as they do not contain nuts or chopped nuts.

Food bars labeled "May Contain Traces of Nuts" may be brought to school.

Parents may consider providing additional healthy foods similar to those eaten in the Crunch and Munch Program (Fruits and Vegetables)

## Food Free Zones

The following Area has been established as food Free Zones in the school:

*Silver seats near the temporary demountables (partial area only)*

*Other areas are established for events such as the Teddy Bears' Picnic (Term 3)*

## Other Food Policy Matters

Students should not share their own food with other students

Students are not to buy food at the Canteen for other children

Any food containers reused in classrooms for paint/craft work should be thoroughly washed

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## Birthday Cakes at School

As there are no controls on preparation or ingredients used in cakes (or other birthday foods), the school policy is that birthday cakes (or other birthday foods) are not brought to school.

Thank you for your support with this important issue at our school.

Parents are requested to seek further clarification about the Food at School Policy if required.