

## FOOD SHARING POLICY

### **PURPOSE**

To ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of all students at Lalor North Primary School by reducing the risks associated with food allergies, anaphylaxis, food contamination, cultural and dietary requirements, and unsafe food handling practices.

### **POLICY**

Students at Lalor North Primary School are **not permitted to share food or drinks** with other students during school hours, including:

- recess
- lunch
- classroom activities
- excursions
- camps
- celebrations
- fundraising events
- before and after school care programs

This includes:

- homemade food
- packaged food
- cultural foods
- birthday treats
- confectionery
- drinks

Students must consume only the food and drinks provided by their parent/carer unless explicit teacher approval has been provided for a supervised curriculum activity.

## **RATIONALE**

This policy has been developed to:

- minimise the risk of allergic reactions and anaphylaxis
- support student health and safety
- reduce food contamination risks
- support families managing dietary, cultural or medical needs
- encourage personal responsibility and hygiene
- comply with Victorian Department of Education food safety and wellbeing expectations

### **1. Student Expectations**

Students are expected to:

- eat only their own food
- avoid offering food to others
- avoid accepting food from others
- notify staff if accidental food sharing occurs

### **2. Staff Responsibilities**

Staff will:

- supervise eating times appropriately
- remind students regularly about the policy
- support students with allergies and medical conditions
- ensure curriculum-based food activities comply with allergy and food safety requirements
- communicate concerns to parents/carers where necessary

### **3. Parent and Carer Responsibilities**

Parents/carers are asked to:

- provide food appropriate for their child's dietary and medical needs
- remind children not to share food
- avoid sending foods intended for distribution to classmates unless approved by the school
- inform the school of allergies or dietary requirements

### **4. Birthdays and Celebrations**

To maintain student safety and inclusion:

- birthday cakes, lollies and shared treats are not to be shared at school
- non-food celebrations are encouraged where possible

Examples of suitable alternatives include:

- stickers, pencils, books, games, classroom activities

## 5. Curriculum and Cultural activities

Food-related learning activities may occur where linked to the curriculum, including the school's multicultural and bilingual programs.

In these cases:

- parent permission may be required
- ingredient lists must be provided
- allergy management procedures must be followed
- staff supervision is mandatory

### Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management

This policy operates alongside:

- the school's Anaphylaxis Management Policy
- the school's First Aid procedures
- Victorian Department of Education health and safety requirements

The school recognises that even small amounts of some foods may cause serious allergic reactions in vulnerable students.

### **COMMUNICATION**

This policy will be:

- published on the school website
- included in parent information materials
- discussed with students regularly
- reinforced through classroom expectations and wellbeing programs

### **FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

- Victorian Department of Education – Healthy Eating and Food Safety Guidelines
- Victorian Government Schools Policy Framework
- Anaphylaxis Australia Guidelines
- Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ)

### **POLICY REVIEW AND EVALUATION**

Policy last reviewed	May 2026
Consultation	First Aid Officers School Leaders Parent feedback
Approved By	Principal
Next Schedule Review Date	May 2028