



GINGIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL SHARED FOOD POLICY

Rationale

Opportunities for parents to provide shared food to a class of students for a special event supports social inclusion, development of sharing habits, and student mental health. At the same time, the school must ensure an orderly, learning-focussed classroom environment and support healthy eating. This policy balances these mutual needs. Mostly, the provision of shared food occurs in Junior Primary and Early Childhood classes, but this policy applies across the school.

Policy Rules

1. Parents may bring food to share with other students in a class, on a special event day such as the student's birthday. These events could include grandparent's morning tea visit, a special celebration, etc. The food is to be provided to the class teacher.
2. There must be discussion and collaboration with the class teacher before bringing in shared food items.
3. The food must be provided for individual students in pre-prepared, individual portions. There is to be no requirement for the class teacher to cut up, prepare, or assemble food items.
4. Parents must provide sufficient food items for the whole class. The class teacher will not distribute items to smaller groups of students in the class.
5. The timing of the distribution of food during the day will be at the discretion of the class teacher.

Responsibilities

- The school will limit the number of shared food events to one per year per student, unless discussed and agreed specifically with the class teacher.
- Parents should provide food which is of a reasonable size for the age of the students, and with consideration for the health needs of students. Mainly Green or Amber foods are encouraged.
- Parents should minimise the requirements for refrigeration and clean up as much as possible.
- Parents are not responsible for addressing allergy issues, but should consider possible allergic reactions.
- Teachers will not accept food that requires preparation, cutting or assembling, and will not accept food for groups of students smaller than the whole class.

Review and Decision Making

The class teacher has responsibility for implementing the Shared Food Policy, but parents may discuss any concerns with the Principal, who has final decision making authority. The Principal will make decisions based on the best interests of student health and minimal disruption to learning programs.

This policy will be reviewed in Term 4, 2023.