

CANTEEN AND HEALTHY FOODS POLICY

1. Preamble

An efficient and effective canteen at the College allows for the provision of a service where snacks and lunches may be purchased, and presents an opportunity to raise funds for the school. Mount Ridley P-12 College's canteen reflects the value the College places on healthy eating practices to students and the wider school community. In addition to providing nutritious foods, the canteen has an important health promoting, educational and socio-cultural role within the College.

2. Rationale

For students who use the canteen regularly, the foods purchased there make a significant contribution to total food intake and nutrition. The College strongly supports the fact that nutrition is important to health through life and it is particularly important at times of rapid growth and development. For these reasons, healthy eating is strongly promoted.

3. Guiding Principles

Mount Ridley P-12 College will provide an effective canteen service that complies with all legislative regulations and requirements. In particular, it will aim to:

- Provide an enjoyable, nutritious and attractively presented selection of foods and drinks at reasonable prices.
- Promote and encourage healthy food choices.
- Function as an efficient business enterprise.
- Encourage courtesy and consideration among all personnel using canteen facilities.
- Provide foods consistent with *the Dietary Guidelines for Children and Adolescents in Australia* and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's *School Canteens and Other School Food Services Policy*.
- Provide foods consistent with the *National Healthy Schools Canteen Project*.

4. Implementation

- The Canteen operates 5 days per week. It's services include:
 - Being open for breakfast
 - Providing snacks during recess.
 - Offering a lunch service.
- The canteen will promote and market healthy food choices.
- College Council will seek tenders from individuals, groups and businesses to provide a daily service from the canteen. As this service will be outsourced to a profit making entity, the entity must register and account for all the GST. Tenders are conditional upon compliance with the following criteria:
 - A canteen coordinator will be appointed and identified by the successful tenderer. The coordinator will be responsible for all aspects of the canteen operation, will be competent in food safety and will be on duty at all times when the canteen is preparing and serving food.
 - The canteen coordinator will ensure that all health regulations and food preparation requirements are complied with, including the *'Food Safety Program for School Canteens'*; *'A checklist for School Canteen Coordinators'* contained within the guidelines for *'Personal Hygiene and Food Safety in Schools'* document; and the requirements set out in the Food Act and the *National Healthy Schools Canteen Project*.

- The canteen coordinator will ensure that all foods served at the canteen comply with the College Council's requirement to provide healthy foods.
- The successful tenderer will be responsible for the provision, maintenance and replacement of equipment, as well as cleaning of all canteen areas.
- All other matters to be agreed between the College Principal and the successful tenderer.

5. Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed at the completion of each tender period.

Date policy ratified: 27/03/2012

Date of next review: 2015

DEECD Reference:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/schooloperations/healthycanteen/default.htm>

National Healthy School Canteens Guidelines (NHSCG)