

Mount Ridley P12 College

CANTEEN AND HEALTHY FOODS POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you require assistance with understanding this policy, please do not hesitate to contact the College and someone will organise a multicultural aide or the relevant person to assist you.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure school food services provide food and drinks which contribute to a supportive, healthy school environment.

In line with DE Guidelines, Mount Ridley P-12 College has adopted a Healthy Foods Policy and promotes a 'Healthy Eating' culture. This is clearly reflected in the College's:

- provision of nutritious foods in the canteen
- enforcement of health promotion regulations and
- health education programs delivered to students across the College.

Therefore, the College strongly discourages students consuming 'fast foods' during school hours. We ask parents/guardians to work in partnership with the College by promoting the healthy food message with their children.

The 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.

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 a nutritious and well-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 Australian Dietary Guidelines and the Department of Education and Training's Canteens, Healthy Eating and Other Food Services Policy*.
- Provide foods consistent with the *National Healthy Schools Canteens Project*.

SCOPE

The policy applies to

- all foods and drinks provided in the following areas within the school environment and directly accessible by students:
 - school canteens and contracted school food services
 - external businesses and retail food outlets supplying schools (for example, milk bars, cafes and bakeries)
 - vending machines
 - school curriculum activities
 - rewards and incentives
 - school sporting days, social events and productions
 - school-based breakfast programs
 - outside school hours care programs on school grounds

This policy does not apply to:

- foods and drinks used for the management of individual student's health conditions
- student lunches and snacks brought from home
- student birthday celebrations
- non-school-related events and activities managed by external organisations on school grounds, for example community sport
- school camps
- staff

Special dietary requirements

Some students may require special diets for medical reasons. The school food service should try to meet these needs as far as possible so that all children can enjoy eating a healthy lunch from the canteen. Any special needs for children with disabilities such as modified texture diets or wheelchair access to the canteen should also be considered.

The school principal, child's teacher or parents should provide advice of any special dietary needs to canteen staff.

Anaphylactic (severe) food allergy

Contact with certain foods (such as peanuts, cow's milk, egg, wheat, soy bean, tree nuts, fish and shellfish) can be fatal for people with allergies to these foods. The Department has guidelines for schools to support students with anaphylaxis, refer to: Anaphylaxis.

Canteen staff need to be aware of students with such allergies and be familiar with the school's management strategies for these students.

POLICY

- The Canteen operates 5 days per week. Its 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 Victorian Healthy Eating Enterprise (VHEE); The National Healthy School Canteens Project Guidelines (NHSCG); and DE's Canteens, Healthy Eating and Other Food Services Policy and School Confectionery Guidelines.
 - 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

DE Canteens, Healthy Eating and Other Food Services Policy / School Operation Guidelines:

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/canteens-and-healthy-eating/policy>

Mount Ridley P-12 College Anaphylaxis Policy – found on website

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

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| Created date | 2021 |
| Updated | May-June 2024 |
| Consultation | College Council - Reviewed every three years |
| Endorsed by | Principal – Carmelo Pagano |
| Endorsed on | |
| Next review date | 2027 |