

Date
December 2018

MELTON WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL HEALTHY EATING POLICY

Purpose:

Leadership and staff at Melton West Primary School acknowledge the importance of healthy eating behaviours, which contribute to good health and overall wellbeing.

This policy confirms our commitment to:

- encouraging students to make healthy food and drink choices;
- promoting the importance of a healthy lifestyle, which includes drinking water and eating healthy food;
- creating a supportive environment for healthy eating for students, staff, families and external visitors.

As a health promoting school, we will promote healthy eating to students, staff and families through learning, policies, creating a safe and healthy physical and social environment, and developing community links and partnerships.

Policy Statement:

Background

Healthy eating and good nutrition has a major influence on the health and wellbeing of children and young people, and a direct impact on their growth and development. Acknowledging the social and cultural role of food, and the wide range of attitudes to it, is important within the school environment.

Whole School Engagement

It is recognised that every member of Melton West Primary School has an impact on students' health and can contribute to creating an environment that promotes healthy eating. All members of our school community including staff, students, families and volunteers will be supported to meet this policy.

Definitions:

Healthy eating: Eating a wide variety of foods from the five food groups each day. Healthy eating also means eating in a way that is socially and culturally appropriate, having regular meals and snacks and eating food to satisfy hunger, appetite and energy needs.

Nutrition: Everyone needs food to provide the right balance of vitamins, minerals and nutrients (like protein, carbohydrate and fats) to feel energised and to help them grow and stay healthy. The meals we eat and the drinks we drink satisfy hunger and thirst throughout the day as well as fuel the body. Preparing and sharing meals with friends, family or community is a significant way to build relationships and is an important part of our culture.

'Occasional' foods and drink: Also referred to as 'extra foods' or 'discretionary foods' (sometimes called

junk food), these are foods like potato chips, chocolate, cakes, lollies, soft drinks and some takeaway food like hamburgers and hotdogs. These foods are usually low in nutrients and high in salt, sugar or fat.

‘Select carefully’ foods and drink: Include foods like commercially prepared pastas, noodles and soups, meat products and fruit juice.

‘Everyday’ foods and drink: Include whole foods such as fresh fruit, wholegrain breads and cereals, lean cuts of meat, legumes, canteen made soups, reduced fat dairy products and water.

Procedures:

Healthy Policies

- This policy is consistent with the School Canteen and other School Food Services Policy and the Australian Dietary Guidelines.
- Staff, families and students are involved in guiding the development and implementation of the whole school healthy eating policy and are seen as key partners in promoting and supporting healthy eating initiatives in the school.
- Staff, families and students are provided with information about policy requirements.

Healthy physical environment

- The school canteen menu is assessed by the Healthy Together Healthy Eating Advisory Service as compliant with the School Canteen and other School Food Services Policy.
- The school canteen or food service works towards increasing the availability of ‘everyday’ foods and limits ‘occasional’ and ‘select carefully’ food and drinks.
- Food provided at camps, school excursions and sports days are in line with the School Canteens and Other School Food Services Policy.
- Families are encouraged to provide healthy lunchboxes. Healthy food options are encouraged for staff at meetings, professional learning events and in the staff room.
- Safe drinking water is available at all times, and only water bottles filled with water are to be accessed during class. Sweet drinks are not permitted during class time.
- The school seeks to ensure any sponsorship, advertisements or marketing of food and drinks is consistent with the school’s healthy eating policy. Fundraising activities reflect the healthy eating policy and promote healthy lifestyle messages.

Healthy social environment

- Food and drink, food vouchers and sweets are not used as an incentive or reward.
- Students are given adequate time to eat their food in suitable and inviting eating spaces, which encourage the social interaction of students.
- To support positive role modelling, staff and families are encouraged to bring food and drinks which are in line with the school’s healthy eating policy.
- Staff and families are encouraged to foster a healthy body image and enjoyment of eating.
- The school respects and celebrates the cultural diversity of its community through recognising and valuing cultural and traditional beliefs about food.

Learning and skills

- Healthy eating is incorporated into the curriculum, across multiple key learning areas.
- Students have the opportunity to engage in regular food-related activities, such as planning and shopping for meals, growing, cooking and eating foods, which are culturally appropriate and varied.
- Staff are supported to access resources, tools and professional learning to enhance their knowledge and capacity to promote healthy eating across the curriculum.

Engaging children, young people, staff and families

- Students are consulted about healthy eating initiatives via junior school council, student action teams or other representative structures.
- Families and staff are, on a regular basis, provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to promote and support healthy eating at school and at home.
- Families are encouraged to be involved in healthy eating initiatives at school.
- Families and students from culturally diverse backgrounds are engaged to ensure cultural values and expectations about food and eating are respected.

Community partnerships

- Melton West Primary School will work with local health professionals, services, businesses or agencies, where possible, to support staff, students and families to promote healthy eating.

Relevant accountability documents:

DEECD School Canteen and other School Food Services Policy
National Health and Medical Research Council, Australian Dietary Guidelines, 2013

Related school policies:

- Canteen Policy
- Physical Activity Policy
- Anaphylaxis/Food Allergies Policy
- Water Policy
- Food Safety Policy
- Fundraising Policy
- School Camp Policy
- Staff Health and Wellbeing Policy

Monitoring and Review:

Date Reviewed: (School Council Endorsement)	November 12 th 2018
Date of Last Review	November 12 th 2018
Next Review Due Date	December 2021
Responsible for Review	Assistant Principal
Frequency of Review	3 year review cycle
References	Victorian Government Schools Policy Advisory Guide