

**Woodbury Boston Primary School
Policies and Procedures**

Special Dietary Needs Policy

Introduction: This policy details how the school supports students' special dietary needs.

Scope: This policy is operations directed. WBPS academic and administrative staff have responsibilities under this policy. This policy will be reviewed and amended every two years, or as required. *(See below for policy review dates)*

Related Legislation / Guidelines: School Education Act 1999; School Education Regulations 2000; Registration Standards and Other Requirements for Non-Government Schools 2020 (or most current version); Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth), Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (WA), Privacy Act (1988), the Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act (2012) and the Privacy Amendment (Notifiable Data Breaches) Act (2017).

Related Policies and Procedures: Asthma Care for Students, Anaphylaxis and Allergy Response, Excursions, Healthy Eating, and Student Health Care Policies.

Policy Statement

Like all schools, Woodbury Boston Primary School has students with a variety of special dietary needs, including Coeliac Disease, anaphylaxis, and allergic reactions other than anaphylaxis to a variety of common food allergens. For Coeliac, anaphylaxis and high-level allergic reactions, the school takes a risk minimisation approach to meals it provides during camps, at canteen lunches and during Out & About, working with the parents of the particular students to ensure minimal exposure to known allergens.

While the school supports families being pro-active with their health and lifestyle choices, it is neither practical nor reasonable to expect the school to cater for non-medically diagnosed dietary choices, including vegetarianism, veganism and food exclusion trials. In particular, when the students are on camp in isolated areas with limited storage and preparation space and unreliable refrigeration, some requests may be unworkable. Where practical and reasonable, meals provided during canteen lunches and school camps, and the lunch options on Out & About days, will address the most common lifestyle dietary choices, however this may not always be possible. Parents are welcome to discuss their dietary preferences with school staff, on the understanding that the school's duty of care responsibilities may preclude the school from meeting these requests. (an example from a previous camp, the parent requested that the child was only to eat white bread and white marshmallows (to address a temporary health issue) while on camp. This was not a request that the school was able to meet.)

See also *Healthy Eating* and *Anaphylaxis Response* policies

Revised: June 2022
Endorsed by GB: June 2022
Next review due: May 2024

Special Dietary Needs Procedures

Our Commitment

Woodbury Boston Primary School will:

- Endeavour to meet the dietary requirements, with assistance from parents, for those with a medical diagnosis and high-level potential reactions.
- At camps or shared meals, serve students with anaphylaxis or high-level reactions first to avoid the potential for cross-contamination.
- Advise relevant parents in advance of the proposed menus for camps and shared meals, allowing parents to make an informed choice as to whether a parent-provided alternative will be required or desired.
- Educate students about 'allergy awareness', including regular discussion about the importance of washing hands after eating, eating their own food, and not sharing food.
- Encourage students with specific needs to bring in alternative 'treats' to be stored at school, for when a birthday cake is shared in the classroom or other similar situations.
- Allocate storage space for the student-provided alternative 'treats'.
- Advise parents of this policy via the school newsletter and other avenues

Our Expectations

Parents/carers of children with medical diagnoses and high-level potential reactions will:

- Support the policies of the school.
- Work with school staff to plan for meals and snacks on camps, providing some meals as arranged.
- Follow school guidelines for packaging of alternative foods, for ease of storage and distribution.
- Provide 'treat' foods if desired, to be kept at school for birthdays and other celebrations.
- Discuss with their children that sometimes the child's specific needs may mean they might miss out or be excluded in certain food situations. Perhaps decide with the child that an alternative treat will be provided later at home in those cases.
- Provide alternative drinks, made up and ready to serve, for 'Monday Milo', if anything other than the school-provided Milo in cow's milk is required or desired.
- Educate their child about allergy awareness so that they can self-manage.

Parents/carers of children with non-medically diagnosed or lifestyle food choices will:

- Support the policies of the school.
- Understand that not all dietary choices will be able to be supported by the school in all situations.
- Acknowledge that, in certain circumstances, their children will be required to eat the food options provided to the rest of the student body, and that parent-provided alternatives will not be appropriate.

Students will:

- Take responsibility, in an age-appropriate way, for managing their own medically diagnosed dietary needs, with parent and staff support
- Be willing to try foods that are unfamiliar to them when on camps and other school-catered events, where there is no medically diagnosed reason to avoid those foods.