

Rationale

Birthdays and celebrations are an important part of a child's life and there are many opportunities to celebrate these.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School believes it is important to acknowledge and celebrate special milestones particularly when children do not have family members in Darwin with whom to celebrate and the school is their community. Many families like to make a cake to bring to school on the day or invite children from the class to an outside party or get together. This policy provides clarity and consistency and promotes safety and inclusion for all members of our community when celebrating birthdays and other special occasions.

Aims

- To ensure consistency of practice throughout the school when celebrating birthdays and special occasions
- To promote healthy and responsible eating and inclusion for all members
- To work in partnership with families when planning and celebrating birthdays
- To take into account the variety of cultural, dietary and religious considerations within the class

Implementation

Parents, teachers, students and the community will be aware of St Mary's birthday celebration guidelines and will work collaboratively when celebrating birthdays to promote healthy eating, safety, inclusion and equity within the community.

St Mary's Catholic Primary school parents, students and staff will adhere to the following guidelines:

- When bringing a treat to school, families should be aware of any allergies or medical conditions in the class and avoid these foods
- Food brought to school for sharing must be labelled and if there is an allergy within the class, families should plan an alternative
- St Mary's Healthy Eating Policy informs this policy (available from the school website)
- Birthdays are to be celebrated without foods high in fat, salt and sugar e.g. no lolly bags, chips, soft drinks or toys. Cakes/cupcakes/fruit platters are acceptable
- Parents/carers are to liaise with teachers beforehand to determine numbers, food allergies (if any), equipment required (serviettes etc) and an appropriate time for the celebration that does not disrupt learning time
- Families should try to involve children in the birthday preparation where possible e.g. a cooking experience the day before is a nice way to prepare together for the celebration
- Parents and staff should be mindful of families whose religion or beliefs don't celebrate birthdays
- Celebrations don't need to be food related, a poem or card may be just as special or a play date at the park after school may be just as much fun
- Parents organising a party outside of school should refrain from giving out invitations during school time, particularly if not all children are invited. It can lead to some children feeling excluded and cause unnecessary upsets. Parents need to discuss options with their child's teacher and distribute invitations after school to the parents or contact them privately

- If a number of students are having a birthday around the same time, perhaps get together and arrange a shared treat or play at the park

References

St Mary's Healthy Eating and Nutrition Policy

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle or as required.

This policy will be published on the St Mary's Catholic Primary School website.

Review/Ratification

Year of review	SIRF Committee Responsible	Ratified By / Date (Month/Year)
2017	School Board	School Board - June 2017
2020	Community and Culture	

Next Review: 2020