

# Who is responsible for healthy food in school?

## Ultimately... the Principal

Regardless of who runs the canteen (e.g. the P&C, a private operator/leasee, Principal and/or school), under the Nutrition In Schools Policy (NSW Government schools):

1.2 Implementation of the NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy is mandatory.

4.1 Principals are responsible...

5.1 Principals will ensure their canteen operations are reviewed... at least every two years.

The implementation of the NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy is supported and encouraged by Catholic and Independent school sectors.

## Opportunities for action

Ensure that your canteen staff and P&C or P&F committee are aware of the NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy and are supported to comply with the strategy. Encourage open dialogue and information sharing.

Open  
dialogue

## The leased canteen

When leasing out the canteen, schools have the ability to set contract conditions they want tenderers to meet. The principal can request additional requirements be included. For example around:

- Pricing
- The menu and specific foods (to be included or excluded)
- Regular menu reviews by independent nutritionists to ensure compliance
- The communication between the school and the leasee. E.g. a process for raising and resolving queries/concerns.

Ensure the lease agreement details the aspects of the canteen that are important to the school to avoid misunderstanding of expectations (for more details, refer to **Leasing the canteen: A guide for schools** on the Healthy Kids website: [www.healthy-kids.com.au](http://www.healthy-kids.com.au)).

The standard NSW Education contract for a leased canteen includes a clause (4.2) that enables the principal to approach the leasee in place and ask them to make changes;

“The Principal may, in the absolute discretion of the Principal, direct that certain foods not be sold as School Canteen Services. The Licensee must withdraw from sale any foods directed by the Principal to be not sold and must endeavour to sell foods as may be requested by the Principal.”

Negotiating  
changes where  
a leasee is already  
in place

## Support and advice



Healthy Kids Association (HKA) is here to help! We support schools to implement the NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy guidelines and operate a successful canteen. By becoming a HKA member, you can benefit from the following free services:

- Canteen menu reviews for helpful feedback on compliance with guidelines and healthy suggestions
- Nutrition advice from qualified nutritionists and dietitians
- Recipe analysis
- Teaching resources
- And more!

Canteen training sessions and support may also be available from your local Health Promotion Officer. View the contact list on the Healthy Kids website.

CONTACT US:

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