

THEODOR HERZL SCHOOLS KASHRUT POLICY

The laws of Kashrut are incumbent on the Jewish people by directives in the Torah. "Holiness" is the reason given in the Bible for the observance of the dietary laws.

'Maimonides, seeking a meaningful reason for the dietary laws, concluded that they "*train us to master our appetites; to accustom us to restrain our desires; and to avoid considering the pleasure of eating and drinking as the goal of man's existence*".

Kashrut is therefore an attempt to attain a higher spiritual level and to elevate the act of eating to something with a G-dly conscience.

The following Kashrut Policy of the Theodor Herzl Schools is in place to ensure that:

- Any fully observant Jewish child should not be compromised in any way on the home turf of their school.
- That all Jewish children and families who choose not to be fully observant have a school environment that educates them in the ways of observant Jewish practice.

In accordance with these points it is the policy of the Theodor Herzl Schools to KEEP KOSHER.

The School Rabbi is the ultimate kashrut authority at the school.

KITCHEN

The School employs a full-time cook to enable all school functions and events to be fully kosher. In addition to this, a Kashrut Supervisor is employed to oversee all kitchen activities.

It is the job of the Kashrut Supervisor to buy all ingredients that enter the school kitchens (Primary and Pre-Primary and High). The supervisor will be in contact with the Rabbi.

Only Tuckshop supplies that do not require cooking may be ordered independently from the Kashrut Supervisor, but the products must first be checked and approved by the Kashrut Supervisor or the Rabbi of the School.

Only certain people approved by the Rabbi may switch on any form of heat for the purpose of cooking – this includes fires for braais. Only kettles and urns for boiling water are excluded from this rule.

All requests for food from the kitchen must be handed to the Kashrut Supervisor. Any time needed to prepare in the kitchen by parents or staff must be booked through the Kashrut Supervisor.

PERSONAL FOOD

School lunch boxes brought to school by individual pupils or teachers must be for personal consumption only and not shared.

No school equipment may be used for 'personal' food, ie. Teaspoons, cups, knives, forks, etc.

OUTINGS OR CLASS PROJECTS AND SPORTING EVENTS

All outings and class projects must be catered for through the school kitchen and bought through the Kashrut Supervisor. Only food for personal consumption may be brought by the individual.

BIRTHDAYS

Any treat intended for the class on the occasion of a birthday must be approved of and bought by the Kashrut Supervisor. Please also note that there are a number of fast days in the Jewish calendar each year on which **no food** can be supplied by the kitchen.

Birthday cakes can be made by School Kitchen at a charge.

SHABBAT

No school functions may take place on Shabbat, ie. From Friday afternoon (before sunset) to Saturday night (nightfall), unless this is a specific school Shabbat Dinner or Shabbaton function.

FUNCTIONS

Any function in the name of the Theodor Herzl School, be it staff, pupil, parents or inter-schools, must be fully kosher and approved of by the Rabbi irrespective whether it is held on the school premises or not.

CHAGIM

The kitchen and indeed the Theodor Herzl Schools must be closed on all chagim including all 8 days of Pesach.

In order to facilitate smooth management of events, the planning of all events that require catering should be discussed with the Rabbi. This will prevent needless planning and preparation that must later be abandoned because of some Kashrut detail that was not observed. Almost everything is possible with the correct planning and consultation.