



# Freeway Park Primary School

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Acting Principal: N Nortje

Dear Parents/Guardians

11 November 2024

## SUSPENSION OF FOOD SALES

The Gauteng Department of Education has released a media statement (8 November 2024) instructing all schools to suspend the sale of food around school premises until further notice. This decision is informed by the recent and alarming increase in incidents of foodborne illnesses affecting learners across various schools in the province. The Department is deeply concerned by how these incidents have led to both loss of life and illness among learners.

As such, the Department will be implementing immediate measures to safeguard the health and well-being of our learners by ensuring:

1. Only food of nutritional value is sold near school premises.
2. No expired or repackaged food items are sold to learners.
3. Any individual or business selling food to learners must comply with Regulation 638 of 22 June 2018 which governs the safety and acceptability of food.
4. All food vendors and traders must obtain a Certificate of Acceptability by contacting their local Health Department's Environmental Health Division.
5. The school will report instances of non-compliance to the District Office and the Department of Health.

The school has the necessary Certificate and will continue to sell snacks such as popcorn and sweets for fundraising purposes.

We must implore our parents to not encourage learners to purchase food items from vendors or the shop on the corner.

As this instruction comes directly from the Department of Education, a member of our staff will be accompanied by Graphite Security to ensure that the current vendors receive a copy of this letter. This is to further protect our learners until the relevant authorities issue updated guidelines for food vendors.

Yours in education.

  
N NORTJE (MRS)

ACTING PRINCIPAL

**GDE Vision:** Every learner feels valued and inspired in our innovative education system