**VICTORIA COLLEGE BELFAST**

**(incorporating Richmond Lodge School)**

**Day Care**

**Provision of Food and Drink Policy COVID - referencing Standard 5**

**1. Rationale:**

Victoria College Day Care is committed to promoting high quality education by employing and supporting staff who will work with a high degree of commitment and professionalism in a healthy and safe environment. The purpose of this policy and accompanying procedures is to establish a clear framework for the provision of food and drink within the Day Care Setting.

**2. Definition:**

This policy applies to all catering staff, teachers, leaders and assistants employed by Victoria College Day Care. The policy covers the provision of food and drink within the Day Care setting.

**3. Aims and Objectives:**

1. To ensure that all food and drink provided within the Day Care setting is in line with the guidance from “Nutrition Matters for the Early Years”.
2. Well-balanced and nutritious meals are provided for the children. If parents/ carers are to provide any of their children’s meals or snacks and drinks, only healthy items should be selected.
3. Special diets are respected. Parents/ carers will be asked to provide staff a copy of the diet sheet from a registered dietician.
4. Cultural dietary habits are respected. Parents/ carers should provide details of these and staff will be accommodating of these requirements.
5. Mealtimes are used as an opportunity to encourage good table manners and social interaction.

**4. Procedures:**

Victoria College Day Care endeavours to provide a healthy and balanced diet for every child within the Day Care setting. All food and drink provided is in line with the guidance from “Nutrition Matters for the Early Years”. Parents should provide a healthy snack and water for their child daily. A choice of packed lunch or a hot meal is offered on a daily basis to all children. This policy should be read in conjunction with the Day Care’s policy on Menu Planning.

**5. Review and Evaluation:**

The policy will be reviewed at least once a year by the Board of Governors. The policy will be kept under review by senior members of staff who will keep Governors informed of any difficulties that may arise.