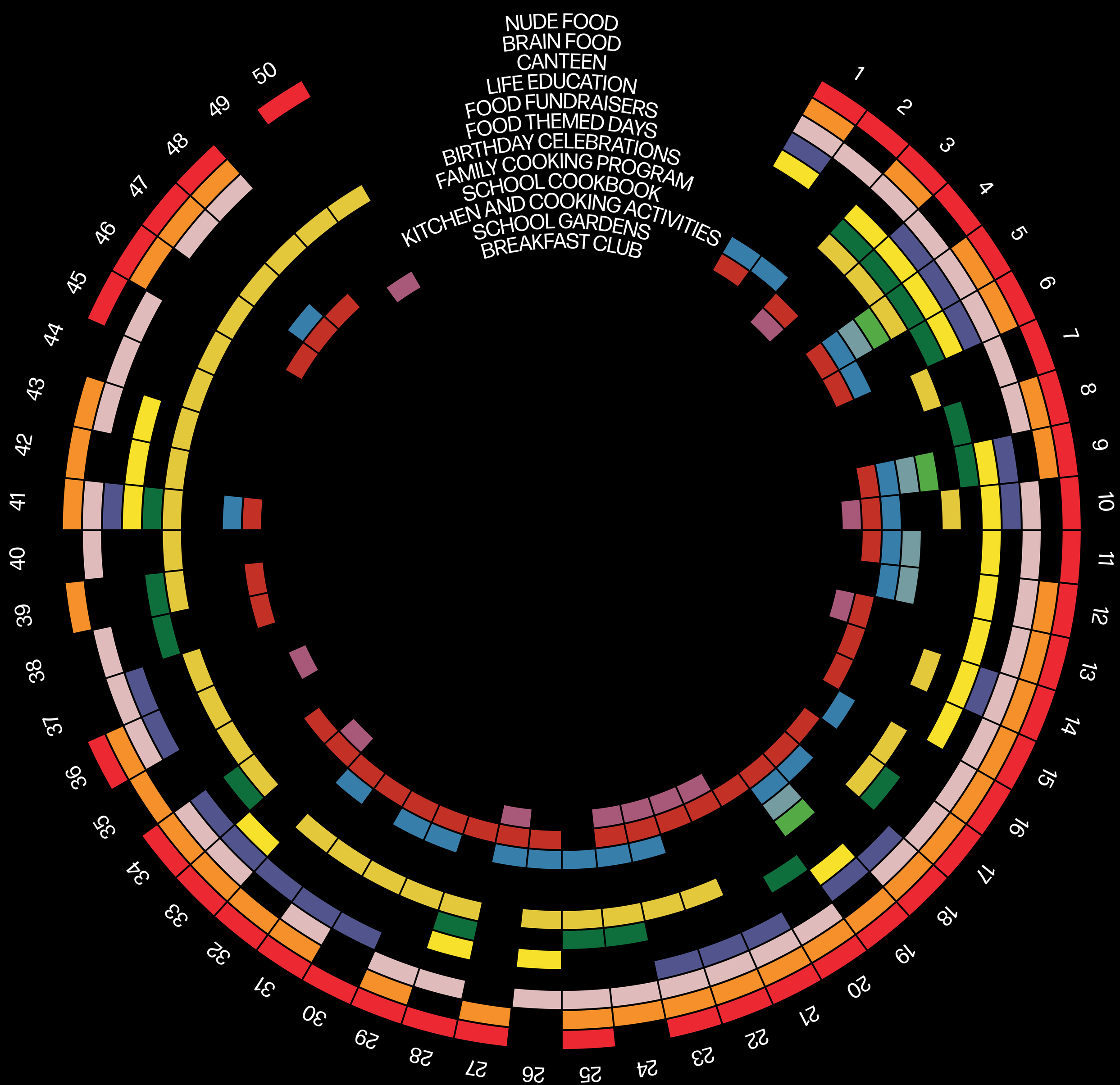
OVERVIEW OF SCHOOLS AND FOOD DATA

This infographic visualises the 'everyday' food work and activities that took place in primary schools. Each numbered segment represents a single family and the school food programs and events they experienced.

Programs vary across schools, but also within schools. Nude Food, Life Education, Garden and Cooking Programs are prevalent across the schools. But each school varies in the way it implements these programs. For example, Nude Food, one of the most popular programs, is a daily occurrence at some schools, or run less often: weekly, monthly, by term or year. Despite the variety of programs, there was little or no ongoing formal education about food.

Other food events and activities are an integral part of the school day. Families talked about themed days that encouraged them to celebrate food from 'other cultures'. Many schools permit birthday celebrations while others don't. In schools where birthdays were celebrated children could bring a variety of foods. Where birthday celebrations couldn't include food, students could bring stationery.

Differences in programs and inconsistencies in school guidelines, policies and practices confused children and parents. Many families we spoke to expressed uncertainty about which guidelines to follow.