

ANAPHYLAXIS

POLICY

Rationale:

- Anaphylaxis is an acute allergic reaction to certain food items and insect stings. The condition develops in approximately 1-2% of the population. The most common allergens are nuts, eggs, cow's milk and bee or other insect stings, and some medications.

Aims:

- To provide a safe and healthy school environment that takes into consideration the needs of all students, including those who may suffer from anaphylaxis.

Implementation:

- Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening condition.
- Signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis include hives/rash, tingling in or around the mouth, abdominal pain, vomiting or diarrhoea, facial swelling, cough or wheeze, difficulty breathing or swallowing, loss of consciousness or collapse, or cessation of breathing.
- Anaphylaxis is best prevented by knowing and avoiding the allergens.
- Our school will manage anaphylaxis by:-
 - identifying susceptible students and knowing their allergens
 - informing the community about anaphylaxis via the newsletter
 - not allowing food sharing, and restricting food to that approved by parents
 - keeping the lawns well mown, ensuring children always wear shoes, and not allowing drink cans at school.
 - requiring parents to provide an emergency management plan developed by a doctor and an EpiPen if necessary, both of which will be maintained in the first aid room for reference as required
 - ensuring all staff are provided with professional development on the response to anaphylaxis and the proper use of an EpiPen.
- The school will comply with Ministerial Order 706 and its Anaphylaxis guidelines.
- In the event of anaphylactic reaction, the school's first aid and emergency response procedures and the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans must be followed.
- The school will purchase and always have an in-date 'back-up' Adrenaline Auto-injector for general use by schools.
- Staff will engage in anaphylaxis training and management at least every three years.
- The school will complete an annual Risk Management Checklist.
- The school will engage in the development and regular review of Individual Anaphylaxis Management plans for affected students.
- The school won't ban certain types of foods (eg: nuts) as it is not practicable to do so, and is not a strategy recommended by the Royal Children's Hospital. However, the school will request that parents do not send those items to school if at all possible and the school will reinforce the rules about not sharing and not eating foods provided from home.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in...

March, 2014