

# 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. It can be life threatening and research indicates it is becoming more prevalent.

### 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 reaction to various foods or insect stings.
- 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:–
  - providing training at least every 3 years for all staff on anaphylaxis management organised through St John's Ambulance, and briefings twice yearly on anaphylaxis including the administering of an adrenaline auto-injector such as an EpiPen or an Anapen.
  - informing the community about anaphylaxis via the newsletter
  - informing students about allergies, including anaphylaxis causes and first aid, as part of the prep–6 curriculum.
  - 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.
  - identifying susceptible students and knowing their allergens
  - requiring parents to provide an ASCIA emergency management plan developed by a health professional and an auto-injector if necessary, both of which will be maintained in the first aid room for reference as required. First aid staff will contact parents if the Use-By date of the injector is close to expiration.
  - All ASCIA Anaphylaxis Action Response Posters will be displayed in the first aid room as appropriate.

- We will maintain open communication with parents.
- 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 Department of Education or the Royal Children's Hospital. However, the school will request that parents do not send those items to school if at all possible; that the canteen eliminate or reduce the likelihood of such allergens, and the school will reinforce the rules about not sharing food, and not eating foods that parents have not provided or consented to.

**Evaluation:**

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

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