



Allergy Awareness Policy

RATIONALE

We at St Joseph's School acknowledge that it is important to adopt an allergy awareness policy to protect our students. Due to the presence of persons who have anaphylactic reactions to various food sources, some foods represent a considerable threat to the well-being of some of the school community.

An anaphylactic reaction can be fatal.

The symptoms of anaphylactic shock may include hives, itching, swelling, watery eyes, runny nose, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach cramps, coughing, wheezing, throat tightness/closing, difficulty swallowing, difficulty breathing, dizziness, fainting, loss of consciousness or a change of skin colour. The most dangerous symptoms are breathing difficulties or a drop in blood pressure, which can potentially be fatal.

Anaphylaxis is rare, but preventable and treatable. It is the aim of this school to establish and **maintain an allergy awareness environment**, for the safety of children who are anaphylactic to various foods and for those children who have unknown allergies to these products. The school has trained staff in the recognition, prevention and necessary treatment of anaphylaxis in children under their care. It is essential that the importance of differentiating between anaphylactic reactions and other types of allergic reactions be identified. It is recognised that this is a life-long and potentially fatal disability, which is to be treated with the highest priority.

The school has a duty of care to ensure the safety of all its children and as such, shall continue to support this school policy and develop further recommendations as necessary.

Products the school would like to avoid include peanut butter, Nutella and other nut spreads, chocolate bars with nuts in them like Snickers, some muesli products, some cake or biscuit products – the list is extensive. Some less obvious ones include pesto, marzipan and nougat. Other allergies which, although not anaphylactic, can cause health issues, include hayfever and grass allergies, pet allergies and allergies to bee stings and insect bites.

If parents could check the labels carefully before buying products for school lunches it would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions about anaphylaxis or certain products, please contact the school.

Staff Training

All staff receive training through their compulsory Basic First Aid course in the use of an Epi-pen throughout their employment.

Identified Children

Those children who have Epi-pens or severe allergies will have their photo taken and on display in the First Aid Room and be given to all staff. Emergency procedures for teachers on duty should be followed.

Signed by Principal:

Don DePalma

3rd March 2025

Circulated to all Staff:

3rd March 2025

Policy Review Date: March 2025

Next Review Date: March 2028