



Allergies and Nut Awareness Policy

Ratified: 2/8/2021

Review Date: August 2024

Rationale

The policy is founded on the belief that Department for Education requires schools to promote and construct learning environments that are safe and supportive. Students and staff may have anaphylactic (severe allergic) conditions, that include nut allergies. This means that exposure at school may constitute a risk to their health and wellbeing. It is not possible to guarantee that the environment will be completely free of potential hazards due to current food processing practices. The emphasis is therefore on raising awareness and adopting the reasonable procedures termed as 'Nut Awareness'.

This policy has been developed using the Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) *Guidelines for Prevention of Food Anaphylactic Reactions in Schools, Preschools and Childcare Centres*

Aims

- To raise awareness of severe allergies for all members of the school community and show care and concern for others within our community
- To provide a safe school environment for all members of the school community
- To reduce the incidence of nut products brought to school
- To support families of children who send their child to school and try to allow them to have as normal a childhood as possible
- To support students in developing strategies for managing their severe allergy in the wider community as well as at school

Role of the Leadership team

- To inform parents of the Allergies and Nut Awareness Policy when they enrol their children
- School community regularly informed via newsletters and other correspondence about the Allergies and Nut Awareness Policy
- Governing Council being informed and giving approval and support to this policy
- Staff being informed and participate in training opportunities to understand how to deal with Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions)
- Raise awareness with staff about suitable food being brought in for morning tea and food available for staff consumption during the day in the staff room
- Ensuring school food providers comply with this policy
- Ensure staff are made aware of students or staff members who have anaphylactic responses, including nut allergy
- Ensure that signage is placed in prominent areas e.g Front Office, Canteen, Gymnasium stating that the school acknowledges that due to food processing practices it is impractical to eliminate nut or nut products entirely from an environment where there is food, thus the school is "Nut Aware"
- Ensure the school website is updated with information relating to this policy
- Liaise with external food providers and caterers to comply with the Allergies & Nut Awareness policy

Role of Teachers

- Supervise students during lunch eating time. Students who bring food to school that contains nuts or nut products will be asked to eat food away from other students and to wash hands before going to play. Family will be contacted to explain our policy and offer support in providing alternatives for food at school
- To be vigilant and respond appropriately to students who tease, harass or bully students about their allergy
- Encourage students not to share food
- Inform students and their families about this policy
- Inform students and their families when there is a student in the class with severe allergic reaction
- Ensure information about the policy is included in notes that go home about shared food opportunities e.g. class parties
- Participate in training to understand procedures related to anaphylaxis as the need arises

- Encourage students to wash hands before and after eating

Role of students

- To have an understanding of the need to provide a safe environment for all students through participation in educational programs incorporated within the curriculum
- To not share food unless there is a class party where class teachers and other trusted adults supervise
- To take responsibility for their own behaviours and not tease, harass or bully students about their allergy

Role of Parents / Caregivers

- Requested not to send food to school that contain nuts or nut products. This includes products such as peanut paste, 'Nutella', most nuts, peanut cooking oil and other foods that may contain nuts. This information will be distributed regularly throughout the year through school newsletters, class newsletters, on the school website and through school enrolment packs.
- Understand that students bringing food that contains nuts or nut products will be asked to eat that food away from any other students

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed with students, parents and community input as part of the school's review cycle.

This school acknowledges that due to food processing practices it is impractical to eliminate nuts or nut products entirely from an environment where there is food. Many food packaging labels include the phrase 'may contain traces of nuts'. Foods with packaging labels that contain the phrase 'may contain traces of nuts' are acceptable. Thus 'Nut Aware' school.