



Star of the Sea School

Allergy Awareness Policy

Rationale

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction. Anaphylaxis is potentially life threatening. As with other health conditions (e.g. asthma) schools provide support to assist the parents/caregivers in the management of their child's health. There is an increasing incidence of allergies in our community.

Star of the Sea has a duty of care to ensure the safety of all students. Consequently, Star of the Sea School has become an Allergy Aware School.

(Common allergens include tree nuts, peanuts, eggs, shellfish etc.)

Implementation

- Obtain accurate medical information. School is provided with EpiPen.
- Photo/ Medical Information inventory of student updated each year and distributed to classroom teachers, relief teachers, specialist teachers, yard duty backpacks, first aid room, canteen staff and OSHC.
- Standard protocol (as per Australian Resuscitation Council) for use of EpiPen. EpiPens to be located in central areas of the school.
- Medic Alert bracelet is recommended for all anaphylactic students and students with allergies.
- Expired medication – parents will be notified by sms.

Education

Staff will receive:

- EpiPen / First Aid Training
- Emergency Management Training
- Allergy Child Awareness Training

Student with Allergy will receive:

- Age appropriate education

Parents/Caregivers will:

- be aware of the expectations of the school

Other Parents/Caregivers will:

- be informed of Food Restrictions Rationale /Consequences

Risk Reduction

No peanut or nut product - Nutella, Peanut Butter at the following activities:

- School
- School Camps/Excursions
- Craft projects involving food (cooking) or food packaging
- School Coaching
- Science Experiments
- Birthday Treats
- Shared Lunches
- OSHC Vacation Care
- Fundraising stalls

Attention to specific allergies for students outside of nut allergies should also be taken, such as EGG, SEAFOOD should be taken on a case by case basis.

Handwashing – reduces potential for cross contamination. Before and after eating.

Response

- Effective- Clear process.
- Simple- Displayed easy to follow.
- Practised regular exercises.

Monitoring the Policy

1. Provide Parents/Caregivers, Visitors, Staff, Relief and Student teachers with guidelines for what can/can't be brought to school – no peanut paste, Nutella, whole nuts, tree nuts or nut based muesli bars

Products containing the following information are allowed:

- May contain traces of nuts
- Manufactured on equipment that also processes products that contain nuts and milk

Parents/Caregivers to monitor what food is brought to school for shared lunches/class celebrations.

Inform the School community via Newsletters, Classroom Correspondence, Enrolment Interviews and Transition Information Workshops.

2. At the beginning of the year (or when an allergy is diagnosed), parents/caregivers of students with allergies make an appointment with the classroom teacher to outline the Allergy Action Plan. It is the responsibility of the parents/caregivers to fully educate their child in knowing how to manage their allergy.

Classroom teacher notify parents/caregivers of the whole class and raise awareness that some students have an allergy.

3. Star of the Sea School adopts an "Allergy Awareness Policy" and classroom signs are displayed:

- Do not share your food with others
- Do not accept food from others
- Wash/sanitise hands before and after eating

4. Update from classroom teachers at the beginning of the term:

- developing children's awareness
- outline what food is not to be shared with others

5. Classroom teachers will communicate through class newsletters the types of suitable food for shared lunches and shared birthday treats (recommended treats are lollies -natural confectionary items, Chupa Chups) as an "Allergy Awareness School".

6. The Policy will be reviewed on a regular basis.