

## ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

### RATIONALE

Allergy occurs when a person's immune system reacts to substances in the environment that do not bother most people. The substances are known as allergens. Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and is potentially life-threatening, particularly amongst children and young adults. Anaphylaxis affects the entire body. In the general population about 1 in every 200 children will develop an anaphylactic reaction at some time, most often due to a food allergy. Peanuts are the most common allergen causing anaphylaxis in school children.

The most common known causes of allergic reaction are:

1. **Food** — most commonly peanuts, tree nuts, seeds, fish and crustaceans, milk, soy, eggs or wheat.
2. **Medication** - painkillers and antibiotics.
3. **Insect stings** — bees, wasps, ants

### AIMS

The aim of this policy is to ensure that we provide a safe and supportive environment which addresses, to the extent possible, reduction of the risk of exposure to known allergens. We also aim to ensure that the health care needs of students are identified and managed at the school and during off-site activities.

### SCOPE

Whole school community.

### POLICY STATEMENT

- Admission procedures are designed to ensure parents are aware of the need to identify any critical allergies their child may have.
- Each child identified as having a critical allergy will have an individual emergency management plan developed by the school, in conjunction with the parent, and signed by the parent/carer.
- All teaching and non-teaching staff will be informed when a child with severe allergic reactions and possible anaphylaxis is attending the school.
- Teaching and non-teaching staff are provided with appropriate training, on an annual basis, to administer health care in a medical emergency. This includes administration of an Epipen.
- The school to issue reminders to parents about allergy reactions each term, through the newsletter.
- Staff on break duty to make teachers aware of children who regularly bring foods with identified allergens to school, for teachers to follow-up with parents.
- Teachers to build into the curriculum appropriate learning programs about allergies and anaphylaxis.
- The school will ensure that at special events where food is involved parents are encourage to provide safe food to enable children with allergies to participate.
- The school will reduce the risk of exposure to severe insect allergens by:
  - ✓ Regularly monitoring the school grounds for infestations of identified allergen insects.
  - ✓ Having infestations reported to the Facilities Manager immediately (with relevant children advised) and having the treatment of infestations followed up promptly.

### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents/Carers will be responsible for the provision of accurate, up to date health information about their child, an Epipen (if required) and for ensuring that medication has not expired.

Staff will provide discreet supervision.

The parents are responsible reducing the risk of exposure to severe food allergens by educating their child on:

- The possible foodstuffs that they can reasonably expect to find the allergen in and how to avoid them
- The dangers of swapping food with other children
- The signs of the onset of an allergic reaction (where practicable)

**Implementation Date: September 2019**

**Review Date: September 2020**

**Reviewed by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**May Ann Angeles, DHA-RN**  
**Lead School Nurse**

**Approved By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Zara Harrington**  
**Principal**