

Allergy Aware Policy

Reviewed : August 2021

Rationale

There are students enrolled at Clare Primary School who have anaphylactic (severe allergic) conditions when exposed to particular products such as dairy, eggs, fish and nuts. Reactions can be triggered by ingestion, contact or inhalation causing an anaphylactic reaction which can be very severe and sometimes life threatening.

Principal

The Australian Society of Criminal Immunology and Allergy states that “ Whilst it is primarily the responsibility of parents that the child is taught to care for themselves, the school has a role to implement the care plan and reinforce appropriate avoidance and management strategies.”

ASCIA Guidelines for Prevention of Food Anaphylactic Reactions in Schools, Preschools and Childcare, 2011. www.allergy.org.au

Policy Statement

Risk minimisation, rather than attempting to prohibit certain foods, is recommended by allergy organisations. While it is not possible to guarantee that the school environment will be completely free of potential nut hazards, risks can be minimised by adhering to reasonable guidelines. The emphasis is on raising awareness and adopting reasonable procedures as outlined in the Operational Guidelines which supports this policy.

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

School Responsibility

Students with anaphylactic reactions require:

- A standardised Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) Action Plan which includes a photo of the student, his/her allergies, what action to take in the instance of a reaction occurring, and the name and contact details of the doctor who completed the plan. This information will be available for the class teacher, relief teacher's folder, Canteen, First Aid Room and Staff Room.
- Support from the class teacher and other staff in completing the Health Care Plan.
- Promotion of appropriate avoidance and management strategies through the newsletter.
- Assurance that the Canteen and other school lunch providers comply with the “Allergy Awareness Policy”.
- Provision of additional information to classes with students at risk of anaphylaxis if required by the doctor.
- Inclusion of information in Yard Duty bags to assist staff with identification.

- Reinforce the Policy through reminders in the class newsletters when they have students with nut related anaphylactic reactions.
- Be trained and confident in the use of an EpiPen , associated triggers and prevention strategies.
- Educate students about the hazard and risks associated for students and allergies.
- Reinforce and advise students not to share or trade their food and be vigilant when supervising the eating of recess and lunch foods.
- Encourage students to wash their hands after eating to help avoid cross contamination.
- If recommended by the students doctor, classes with younger students (preschool—Year 3) may be provided with additional parent information. This may include a letter of request from parents of that classroom not to pack certain foods where the relevant nut is the main ingredient. (it does not apply to “may contain traces of nuts”.

Student Responsibility

Students will;

- Not share or trade food.
- Be aware of students in the class who have a nut allergy and be sensitive to their needs.
- Wash their hands after eating food containing ingredients that students are allergic to.
- Eat away from students with allergies.

Parent Responsibility

Parents will;

- Provide an up to date Anaphylaxis Action Plan.
- Supply an in date epiPen where required.
- Notify of any changes in their child’s medical needs.

Communication and review

Consultation has occurred with:

- Staff via staff meeting
- consultation with parent members of Governing Council
- invitation for feedback from broader parent body published in newsletter

Policy is accessible via school website

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as a part of the schools 3 year policy cycle.

The school’s Leadership Team and Governing Council last ratified this policy in	
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Responsibility Doing Your Best*

