

NUT AWARE POLICY

RATIONALE

At St Catherine's School, our aim is to provide a safe learning environment for all people in our school community. To support this policy we are a 'Nut Aware School'. This policy aims to increase our school community awareness and in doing so will minimise the risks to students, staff, volunteers and visitors with documented allergies to nut products.

WHY? Anaphylaxis is a severe form of allergic reaction which is potentially life threatening. There are many causative agents for anaphylaxis with nuts often being the precipitative factor. Anaphylaxis is preventive and avoidance of specific triggers is by far the best option. Management is via immediate injection of adrenaline and emergency transfer to hospital. Knowing this we encourage parents, children and staff to avoid bringing foods that contain nuts to school.

Products that contain nuts include

- Nuts
- Peanut butter
- Nut spreads such as Nutella
- Most fruit bars, nut bars and muesli bars
- Some biscuits
- Chocolates and any other products that have nuts listed in the ingredients

Our school acknowledges that it is impractical to ask parents not to send foods that state 'may contain traces of nuts' on the label. This Nut Aware Policy applies to those ingredients specifically listed on the product label.

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Reinforce appropriate avoidance and management strategies.
- Keep updated Health Care Plan information and a photo in the relevant class roll book and the first aid room.
- On advice from a Health Care Plan, individual classes may need to develop class specific measures.
- Ensure that the canteen and other school lunch providers honour the Nut Aware Policy.
- Provide additional information to classes with children who have had previous anaphylaxis to nuts.
- Ensure that any food items donated for school events such as Sports Day, fundraising events, etc., are labelled with 'this product may contain nuts'.

INDIVIDUAL ANAPHYLAXIS HEALTH CARE PLAN

The Principal will ensure that an individual Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan is developed in consultation with the student's parents/guardians, for any student who has been diagnosed by a medical practitioner as being at risk of anaphylaxis. The Individual Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan will be in place as soon as practicable after the student is enrolled, and where possible before their first day of school.



The student's Individual Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student's parents/guardians:

- Annually, and as applicable
- If student's condition changes
- Immediately after the student has an anaphylactic reaction.

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to:

- Provide an ASCIA Action Plan completed by the student's medical practitioner with a current photo
- Inform the school if the students medical condition changes, and if relevant provide a new updated ASCIA Action Plan

PARENTS RESPONSIBILITY

Parents/caregivers of children with previous anaphylaxis have the responsibility to:

- Provide the school with a Health Care Plan with a documented plan for first aid response and an Epi-pen which will be kept in the school office/first aid room.
- Provide medication that is in current date and will be replaced as it expires
- Provide the name and contact details of the doctor who signed the Health Care Plan
- Support the class teacher/s and other staff in implementing the Health Care Plan.

All Parents are asked to support the school's Nut Aware Policy by:

- Providing children with healthy food options that do not contain nuts.
- Encouraging children to wash their hands before and after eating.
- Considering the 'Nut Aware Policy' when sending food to school for shared functions or school events

STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

All Staff are asked to support the school's Nut Aware Policy by:

- Incorporating it as part of the class health program
- Teaching students the importance of washing their hands before and after eating
- Considering the Nut Aware Policy when catering for school events
- Reminding students and parents of the Nut Aware Policy prior to school events where food is available for sharing and / or purchase.

TRAINING

All teachers and ESO's have been trained in anaphylaxis management, administration of an epi pen and how to respond in an emergency. Casual relief staff and volunteers will be informed on arrival at the school if they are caring for a student at risk of anaphylaxis and their role in how to respond in an emergency.

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Principal, on behalf of the School Board

Date: _____