

DRAFT NUT ALLERGY AWARENESS POLICY

Purpose

- To provide a safe learning environment for all members of the Winthrop Primary School community.
- To raise the awareness of all members of the community regarding severe allergies.

Background

Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a systemic allergic reaction that can be fatal within minutes; either through swelling that shuts off airways or through a dramatic drop in blood pressure.

Management

The Nut Aware policy will be managed by:

- Parents and caregivers being requested NOT to send food to school that contain nuts (especially peanuts). This includes peanut paste, nutella, all nuts and cooking oil containing peanut oil, as well as foods containing nuts. This is especially important in the Junior Primary Unit, where young children are less able to manage their allergy.
- Staff supervising eating at lunch time.
- Students being encouraged NOT to share food.
- Students being encouraged to wash hands after eating.
- Staff participating in training in understanding and dealing with Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions) as the need arises.
- The school canteen complying with the Nut Awareness Policy.
- Students bringing food that contains nuts or nut products being asked to eat that food away from any other students and to wash their hands before going to play.
- No nut products to be included in food on special food days i.e. cakes, or in any cooking activities at school or on school camps.

Promotion

The policy will be promoted by:

- Parents and caregivers being informed via the 'Policy Pamphlet' distributed to all families at the beginning of each year.
- New families to the school community being informed via enrolment information.
- Staff being informed and provided with training opportunities in the treatment of anaphylaxis.
- Staff will be aware of specific students via photographs / information in staffroom, sickroom and in the duty files.

- Education, information and procedures being part of staff induction.
- Staff being required to take Epi-pens, medications and medical plans on any camps, excursions and swimming lessons. NB: If the classroom teacher is not attending such events then it is their responsibility to pass on relevant information and medication to a staff member who will be present.
- Students being informed via teachers, letters and items in the newsletter.
- The Principal obtaining specific medical information from the family at the time of enrolling a student with a “nut allergy” (ie an Anaphylaxis Action Plan being provided by a medical practitioner). This will include a clear photo of the child and documentation of the allergic triggers.