



## *Anaphylaxis and Allergy Policy*

Anaphylaxis is a severe and life-threatening condition that is estimated to affect 2% of the community and up to 5% of children.

The most common causes of anaphylaxis are eggs, nuts, insect bites and some medications. The symptoms of anaphylaxis are not always easily expressed by children but can be managed with the use of an adrenaline auto-injector (Epipen®).

It is impossible to provide a completely allergy-free environment within any facility.

This school acknowledges the need to adopt a range of procedures and risk minimisation processes that reduce the likelihood of a reaction.

### **Risk Minimisation Processes:**

- Class Teachers are to be notified of specific food and other allergies of their students
- Food prepared in class to contain no known allergenic substances
- Children should be encouraged to wash hands well after preparing or eating food before continuing class activities, particularly where there are children with food allergies are present
- School canteen will not provide, wherever possible, foods with artificial colours, additives or nuts and have the capacity to respond to new allergies as notified
- Children with insect allergies to be kept inside in the event of insect swarm, etc
- Caterers, excursion and camp facilities that provide food to students will be notified in advance of potential allergies
- Where appropriate when out in the community on excursion or camp, health services, ambulance and venue operators are warned in advance of the presence of students with potential anaphylaxis. Multiple modalities of contact are to be maintained (mobile phones, walkie talkies, etc) to ensure ability to call for help if needed
- Parents of students with allergies should provide the school and class teacher with information about the nature of the allergenic substances, an anaphylaxis action plan prepared by their GP or specialist (updated annually) and an Epipen® or other medication if necessary
- Epipens® should be checked by the parent for expiry date at beginning of every term and replaced by the parent when expired
- Epipen® is the responsibility of teacher or nominated carer when at school, on excursions and camp (it is best practice to have 2 Epipen®s available)
- Anaphylaxis action plans need to be displayed in folders prominently available at multiple sites in the school with easy access to all staff
- Teachers and administration staff are to be given regular education regarding first aid, resuscitation practices and the use of an Epipen®.

## **Procedure:**

If a student with known anaphylaxis complains of any of the following, the teacher or person in charge will initiate the anaphylaxis procedure:

- Difficulty breathing
- Swelling of the tongue or tightness of throat
- Flushing, itching, rash
- Difficulty talking
- Persistent cough/wheeze
- Pale and floppy, collapse

Anaphylaxis procedure:

- Administer EpiPen® even if out of date
- Get another student to call office and get help from another adult
- Office to contact ambulance, obtain assistance from first aider/other teacher, notify parents of child
- Another teacher is to relocate other class students till ambulance arrives

Ratified at School Council Monday 23 June, 2008