ANAPHYLAXIS MANAGEMENT POLICY

RATIONALE

St John’s School is committed to providing a safe environment that meets the needs of all our students, this includes students with anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. The most common allergens in school age children are peanuts, eggs, tree nuts, cow’s milk, fish, shellfish, wheat, soy, latex, certain insect stings and some medications. At St John’s School we endeavour to follow guidelines that will minimize the potential risks for students with anaphylactic allergies.

AIMS

• To provide, as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of schooling.

• To ensure that each staff member has adequate knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the school’s policy and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

IMPLEMENTATION

Anaphylaxis is best prevented by knowledge of the students at risk, awareness of the triggers (allergens) and prevention of exposure to these triggers.

Our school will manage anaphylaxis by:

1. Identifying susceptible students and their allergens. Children must not share food, food containers or utensils and must only have food provided from home or given with parent’s permission. This is also in keeping with the school’s practice of ‘no food sharing’.
2. Ensuring all appropriate staff will receive annual training in anaphylaxis management.
3. Requiring parents to provide an Anaphylaxis Management Plan, which includes an ASCIA (Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy Inc) individual Action Plan signed by a doctor which will be displayed in the first aid room, in the yellow folders in the classroom and in each child’s emergency Anaphylaxis Bag for reference as required.
4. Staff will be able to access a copy of students ASCIA plan quickly and follow it in the event of an allergic reaction.
5. Requiring parents to provide the Epipen and any other medications to the school and ensure all medication including Epipen is replaced before the expiry date.
6. Requiring parents to keep the school informed of any changes in the student’s condition or emergency contact details.
7. Epipen will be maintained in the First Aid Room.
8. In the event that a child diagnosed with anaphylaxis attends school camps and excursions, the Epipen will be taken as part of the First Aid kit, by the teacher in charge.
9. In the event of using the Epipen the ambulance will be called and a recording of the time the Epipen was given will be made. Epipen safety caps are to be replaced on the epipen and the pen sent to the hospital with the patient.
10. Parents of anaphylactic children are encouraged to provide treats to replace party food.

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supplied by classmates. If no treats are provided the anaphylactic child will go without.

11. Casual relief teachers will be made aware of a child’s diagnosis as part of the ‘Emergency Teacher’s Information’ kept in each classroom and by the Emergency Teacher Coordinator.

12. Informing the community about anaphylaxis via the newsletter.

13. Informing all parents in a classroom, where a class member has anaphylaxis, of that child’s particular allergen and providing them with this policy.

The school will not ban certain types of food (e.g. nuts) as it is not a strategy recommended by relevant health authorities. However, whilst there are students with severe allergies to nuts (peanut and tree nuts), the school will employ risk minimization strategies that include:

- Nut products not to be used in art/craft or science demonstrations.
- Requesting children in classes where a class member has anaphylaxis to undergo certain minimization practices such as washing hands, cleaning tables, eating ‘trigger’ foods away from allergic children and a recommendation not to bring in “trigger” foods
- School lunch providers would be made aware and comply with this policy.

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**EVALUATION**

**This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the school improvement plan and policy timeline.** St John’s School will endeavour to be vigilant in implementing this policy however it is not possible to guarantee that the school environment will be completely free of potential hazards.

References: ASCIS (Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy Inc) Guidelines for prevention of food anaphylactic reactions in schools.


Royal Children’s Hospital Anaphylaxis Education Package for Schools.