Anaphylaxis Management Policy

Rationale:
Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. The most common allergens in school aged children are peanuts, eggs, tree nuts (e.g. cashews), cow’s milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, certain insect stings and medication. The key to prevention of anaphylaxis in school is knowledge of those students who have been diagnosed at risk, awareness of triggers (allergens), and prevention of exposure to these triggers. Partnership between school and parents are important in ensuring that certain foods or items are kept away from the student while at school. Adrenaline given through an EpiPen auto-injector to the muscle of the outer mid-thigh is the most effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

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 the student’s schooling.

To raise awareness about anaphylaxis and the school’s anaphylaxis management policy in the school community.

To engage with parents/carers of students at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies and management strategies for the student.

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:

Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan
Each student to have their own personal action plan to be used at school, on excursions, at school camps and special events.

The Principal will ensure that an individual management plan is developed, in consultation with the student’s parents/carers, for any student who has been diagnosed by a medical practitioner as being at risk of anaphylaxis.

The individual anaphylaxis management plan will be in place as soon as practicable after the student has been diagnosed / enrolls, and where possible before their first day of school.

The individual anaphylaxis management plan will set out the following:

- Information about the diagnosis, including the type of allergy or allergies the student has (based on a diagnosis from a medical practitioner)
- Strategies to minimise the risk of exposure to allergens while the student is under the care or supervision of school staff, for in school and out of school settings including camps and excursions.
- Principal, teaching staff and First aid sub-committee and parents will be responsible for implementing the strategies.
- Student’s medication will be stored in the cupboard in First aid room.
- Student’s emergency contact details on medication and on all action plans.
• An emergency plan (ASCIA Action Plan), provided by the parent, that:
  - sets out the emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction.
  - is signed by a medical practitioner who was treating the child on the date the practitioner signs the emergency procedures plan; and includes an up to date photograph of the student.

The student’s individual management plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student’s parents/carers:
  • annually, and as applicable,
  • if the student’s condition changes, or
  • immediately after a student has an anaphylactic reaction at school.

It is the responsibility of the parent to:
  • provide the emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan).
  • inform the school if their child’s medical condition changes, and if relevant provide an updated emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan).
  • provide an up to date photo for the emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) when the plan is provided to the school and when it is reviewed.
  • provide a safe ‘treat box’ for special occasions clearly marked with child’s name.
  • decide whether they provide food for their child on camps.

**Communication Plan**

The Principal will be responsible for ensuring that a communication plan is developed to provide information to all staff, students and parents about anaphylaxis and the school’s anaphylaxis management policy.

The communication plan will include information about what steps will be taken to respond to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in a classroom, in the school yard, in the school yard, on school excursions, on school camps and special event days.

The teachers and specialist staff are to inform parents of any special food days that will be happening in the class.

Volunteers and casual relief staff of students at risk of anaphylaxis will be informed students at risk of anaphylaxis and their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in their care by class teacher /first aid staff member.

**APPROVED:** 2012

**REVIEW** 2015