



Allergy Awareness Policy

Date: March 2023

Evaluation and Review: March 2025

Ratified and Approved by Governing Council: March 2023

Rationale:

To provide a safe learning environment for all members of our school community and to raise the awareness of severe life-threatening allergies. An allergic reaction occurs when the immune system reacts to substances and food products in the environment (e.g. nuts, milk, fish, etc). An anaphylaxis reaction can be triggered by contact, ingestion or inhalation. There may be also a concern in regard to contamination of equipment whether this is play equipment, desks or other classroom materials.

Aim:

We aim to minimise the potential risks through compliance of these guidelines. It is not possible to guarantee that the environment will be completely free of potential hazards.

Implementation:

Planning for Safety

The School:

- promotes the Allergy Awareness Policy through Governing Council support, school website, newsletter, Parent and Staff Handbooks
- informs the school community regularly about allergy aware policy and practice
- acknowledges that due to food processing practices it is impractical to eliminate all allergy related foods in an environment

Parents/Carers:

- are responsible for notifying the school and class teacher of their child's care plan and any medication. Parents/carers of children with allergies which require medication, e.g. EpiPen or antihistamine, must supply a Health Support Agreement and Medication Agreement to the school. All medications supplied by the parents/carers are stored securely at school and taken on camps/excursions as needed
- are requested not to send to school food identified that cause an allergic reaction
- read product labels carefully to keep our students safe

Students:

- with allergies have a health care plan and medication (e.g. Epi-Pen) with a current expiry date
- read food labels and understand and apply allergy aware practices
- are not to share food
- wash or sanitise their hands after eating

Staff:

- understand and apply allergy aware practices
- are informed and undertake First Aid and Anaphylaxis training
- supervise students eating at lunch time
- are not to give food as a reward or treat
- take into account the menu on camps and discuss the food choices with families

Letter to Families – Allergy in Classroom

Dear Parents/Carers,

This letter is to inform you that we have a student in the class that has life threatening food allergies to_____. The food allergies are severe and exposure in any form (skin contact or ingestion) to these substances could result in anaphylaxis, a potentially fatal condition that requires immediate medical attention.

For the health, safety and wellbeing of our students we do not encourage the sharing of food at school or at OSHC. We are asking parents/carers and students to reduce the risk of harm to others by being mindful of the ingredients of snacks and lunches that they send to school.

We know that many parents/carers like to celebrate birthdays and other occasions with special treats. For protective practice reasons, and to promote inclusivity, we do not encourage the distribution of food/sweets and we creatively celebrate birthdays with non-food items.

Please remind your child not to share food with other classmates.

Thank you in advance for making the class and school environment a safe and healthy place for our school community.

Warm regards

Dora Iuliano,
Principal, Rose Park Primary School