



## NUT AWARENESS POLICY

Developed 2015

For Review 2017

A number of our students have a severe allergy to nuts and can have a life threatening reaction. Anaphylactic shock can occur within seconds of exposure to a nut allergen.

This can occur if...

- contact is made with a person who has handled or eaten nuts or nut products
- contact is made with an object such as a toy or door handle that has traces of nuts on it.
- the person with the allergy inhales the air close to nuts or products containing traces of nuts.

For this reason the following Nut Awareness Policy has been endorsed by staff and Governing Council.

### Context

DECD requires schools to promote and construct learning environments that are safe and supportive. Students and staff may have Anaphylaxis, the severest form of allergic reaction and nuts or nut products may be a trigger. This means that exposure at school may constitute a risk to their health and well-being. It is not possible to guarantee that the environment will be completely free of potential hazards. However, compliance to reasonable guidelines will minimise the potential risks.

### Purpose

- To raise the awareness of anaphylactic conditions for all members of the school community.

- To provide a safe learning environment for the whole school community

### Management

#### Parents...

- are requested NOT to send food to school that contain nuts, especially peanuts. This includes products such as peanut paste, 'Nutella', most nuts, peanut cooking oil and other foods that may contain nuts.
- are requested NOT to send empty containers to school, for classroom use, if those containers once had a substance that included nuts or traces of nuts
- will be informed of this policy at the commencement of each new school year and at enrolment.
- will furnish the school with a Health Care Plan and Emergency Procedure Plan for each child they have with a nut allergy.

#### Students...

- are encouraged to wash their hands before and after eating.
- who bring food containing nuts, or nut products, are required to eat that food right away from other students and to wash their hands, face and mouth before going to play.
- are not to share food.

#### Staff...

- will be made aware of students who have anaphylactic responses, including nut allergies.
- will supervise all students during lunch eating time and will be vigilant in regard to this policy.

- will participate in training from St John or Red Cross to understand procedures related to Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reaction) as the need arises.

- staff being informed via colleagues, staff meetings, and day book
- the school canteen complying with the Nut Awareness Policy

### **Promotion**

This policy will be promoted by...

- information via the school newsletter, website, class blogs and at Acquaintance Night.
- new families to the school community being informed via information in their enrolment pack.
- Governing Council being informed and giving support to this policy

### **Review**

This policy will be reviewed by staff and Governing Council every two years, beginning in 2017.

***The school acknowledges that due to current food processing practices, it is impractical to eliminate nuts and nut products entirely from an environment where there is food. The emphasis is therefore on raising awareness and adopting the reasonable procedures termed as 'Nut Awareness'***