



ALLERGIES AWARENESS POLICY

Governing Council Accepted 04/12/17
For Review 2019

A number of our students have a severe allergic reaction to differing triggers, including nuts, seeds (including wheat), dairy products, eggs and cereals and can have a life threatening reaction. Anaphylactic shock can occur within seconds of exposure to an allergen.

This can occur if...

- the child with the allergy ingests the trigger.
- the child with the allergy inhales the air close to the trigger or products containing the trigger.
- contact is made with a person who has handled or eaten a trigger or any products containing that trigger.
- contact is made with an object such as a wrapper, toy, chair, table top or door handle that has traces of the trigger on it.

For this reason the following **Allergies 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 a number of different 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...

- will be told if there is a child with anaphylaxis in their own child's class and the triggers to the anaphylaxis.
- are requested **NOT** to send food to the class that contains the identified triggers eg. nuts, especially peanuts, nut products and eggs and egg products. This includes products such as peanut paste, 'Nutella', most nuts, peanut cooking oil and other foods that may contain nuts and eggs.
- 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, seeds or dairy products.
- 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 severe allergy.

Students...

- are encouraged to wash their hands before and after eating with soap and water.

- who have food containing a trigger or triggers are required to eat that food 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 all children who are anaphylactic.
- will supervise all children during lunch eating time and will be vigilant in regard to this policy.
- will participate in training from St John or Red Cross every 3 years to understand procedures related to Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions).
- will respond accordingly to any person at school who shows symptoms of anaphylactic shock.

Promotion

This policy will be promoted by...

- information via the school newsletter, website, class blogs, Daymap 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
- staff being informed via colleagues, staff meetings, and Daybook and email.
- the school canteen complying, where practical, with the Allergies Awareness Policy

Review

This policy will be reviewed by staff and Governing Council every two years.

The school acknowledges that due to current food processing practices, it is impractical to entirely eliminate all anaphylactic triggers from an environment where there is food. The emphasis is therefore on raising awareness, education and adopting the reasonable procedures termed as 'Allergies Awareness'