



HALLETT COVE EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL

Allergy Awareness Policy

Respect – Responsibility – Excellence – Fairness

Rationale

We are committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for all students and staff, with particular attention to those at risk of allergies and anaphylaxis. While it is impossible to guarantee the removal of all allergens from our environment, our procedure aims to minimise risk and educate the school community.

Context

Allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, can be life threatening and pose a serious risk in educational settings. Common triggers include, but are not limited to, certain foods (e.g., nuts, seeds, dairy, egg, wheat), insect stings, latex, hand sanitizers, cleaning products and some medications. The severity and triggers will differ among individuals. This procedure has been developed in compliance with the Department for Education's Anaphylaxis and Allergies Procedure (2024) and incorporates guidance from SA Health, the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA), and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia.

Objectives

- To raise awareness of anaphylaxis and serious allergies for all members of the school community.
- To minimise exposure to known allergens for students and staff with allergies.
- To foster a supportive and inclusive environment through risk minimisation, education, and sound emergency response.

Risk Minimisation Strategies

- Blanket bans on allergens (e.g., 'nut free' school) are not recommended. Instead, we ask our community to help minimise risk by:
 - Being mindful not to send foods that contain known triggers for students in their class (e.g. peanut or tree nut products, egg-containing products) when informed.
 - Communicating with the school if your child has allergies—providing updated ASCIA Action and Health Care Plans.
 - Avoiding sharing food or containers among students.
- Hallett Cove East PS will provide information and reminders about allergy awareness at enrolment, start of each year, and via communication channels including the school newsletter and website.
- Staff and volunteers will be familiar with:
 - The students at risk and their specific management plans.
 - Supervision practices to ensure safe eating environments, such as:
 - Where possible, washing hands with soap and water before and after eating.
 - Not sharing food, utensils, or drink bottles.
 - Eating food containing known triggers to be eaten away from other students with those allergies.
- Canteen and event organisers will work to comply with allergy awareness recommendations and will avoid using high-risk ingredients where practical. The school will notify parents of special classroom food activities including ingredients to be used. The school will also notify providers (camps, special events) of known food allergies for students.
- Food preparation for students with known allergies will occur in separate areas of the canteen to safe guard against cross-contamination

The school will maintain and review records of student allergies.

The canteen manager will maintain current training records with regard to food safety handling and food allergies.

- Off-site and special events (e.g., excursions, sports days, cultural days, class parties) will be risk assessed for allergy safety and planned in consultation with families of students with allergies.

Management and Emergency Response

- Parents/carers must provide an up-to-date Action Plan for Anaphylaxis, a Health Support Agreement, and any required medication (e.g., EpiPen or Anapen), labelled with the school.
- Staff members will:
 - Receive anaphylaxis training, including practical adrenaline autoinjector practice, as part of first aid training. ASCIA online training is recommended every two years.
 - Know the location and procedures for use of adrenaline autoinjectors.
 - Act promptly in accordance with student's ASCIA Action Plan in the event of a reaction.

- The school will have at least one staff member trained in HLTAID012 Emergency First Aid Response in Education and Care on site at all times.
- A designated staff member will routinely check the expiry and integrity of all adrenaline autoinjectors, both general use and personal.

Supporting the Wellbeing of Students with Allergies

The school will address the psychosocial impact of allergies, including bullying. Any incident involving teasing with allergens or deliberate exposure will be treated as a dangerous incident and responded to in line with our anti-bullying policy.

Education will be provided for all students to promote empathy, reduce stigma, and support inclusion (e.g., via Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia’s “Be a M.A.T.E.” program).

Communication

Communication with parents/carers of students with allergies will provide assurance regarding the risk minimisation and management strategies in place. The wider school community will be educated about allergy awareness and emergency response through newsletters, assemblies, curriculum activities, and events.

Review and Policy Development

This policy is reviewed biennially or following any incident or change in best practice recommendations. Key reference documents include the Department for Education's Anaphylaxis and Allergies Procedure and ASCIA resources.

Resources and References

- Department for Education Anaphylaxis and Allergies Procedure (2024)
- ASCIA Action Plans and training
- Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia and Allergy Aware Resource Hub

Governing Council Approval: 7th September 2026
Next Review Date: September 2028