



## **DUNCRAIG PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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### **ALLERGY AWARE POLICY(revised 300713)**

#### **RATIONALE**

Duncraig Primary School have a number of students at Duncraig Primary School who have been diagnosed with the potential to suffer a sudden, severe and potentially fatal allergic reaction to various allergens. This is known as ANAPHYLAXIS.

The smallest trace of an allergen, such as skin contact, inhalation or ingestion can cause anaphylaxis.

#### **The Role of all Parents**

- Please do not give your children foods containing nuts or peanuts to be consumed at school.
- Be aware that many foods contain traces of nuts (eg. Nutella, muesli bars, biscuits and chocolate bars).
- Encourage thorough washing of hands and face if your child has eaten nut products before coming to school.
- Avoid nuts and peanuts in birthday cakes and fundraising food that may be brought to school.

#### **The Role of Parents with Anaphylactic Children**

- To inform the school of the medical situation and provide the school with an action plan devised and signed by the child's doctor.
- To provide an Epipen in a shock proof and light proof container.
- To educate their child on allergen avoidance.
- To respond immediately if contacted in an emergency. Parents are called after the ambulance. In a situation where there may be a concern about their child eating "celebration cakes" to provide an alternative.
- To update the school administration when new medical information, treatment or changes in contact details occur.
- To keep a note of the expiry date of the Epipen and replace expired pens.

#### **The Role of the School**

- To ensure all staff have training in the use of an Epipen.
- Teachers will provide anaphylactic information at the relevant level for all students.
- To ensure relief teachers are aware of anaphylactic students.
- To follow the Medical Action Plan for each anaphylactic student as provided by parents.
- To ensure the safe, secure and accessible storage of Epipens.
- To have Epipens and any other prescribed medication taken on excursions for individual students.
- To inform parents of the policy through the website and parent information session at the beginning of the year.
- To include photographs of anaphylactic students in the medical room and staff room.



## The Role of all Students

- Students do not share or accept foods from others.
- Students should wash their hands before and after eating.
- Anaphylactic students are to inform a staff member if they have any symptoms of an allergic reaction.

***Your assistance in providing a safe school environment is greatly appreciated.***

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

1. When can my child eat nuts?

*If your child eats a nut product before school please ensure that they wash their hands and face well. We request that students do not eat nut products while at school. Some students are very allergic to nuts and any contact can result in a reaction.*

2. What about the foods that state “may contain traces of nuts”?

*Anaphylactic students should not typically eat foods that state “may contain traces of nuts”. However, as this statement is used so widely with foods that do not contain nuts the school requests that parents make a judgement about the suitability of individual foods.*

3. What about the cakes brought to school (eg. cakes/treats)?

*Parents are encouraged to ensure that the cakes do not contain nuts. If this is not possible a note advising the class teacher that the cake may contain traces of nuts would be appreciated.*

4. Is the school policy consistent with Department of Education Policy?

Yes.

5. Isn't anaphylaxis typically related to peanuts?

*Anaphylaxis can occur with any severe allergy such as an allergy to other nuts, shellfish and bee stings. However, in school settings anaphylaxis to peanuts or other nuts has become increasingly common.*