



## ST MUNCHIN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

### RATIONALE

Allergy occurs when a person's immune system reacts to substances in the environment that do not bother most people. These substances are known as allergens.

**Anaphylaxis** is the most severe form of allergic reaction and is potentially life threatening. It is sometimes called 'allergic shock' and occurs after exposure to an allergen (such as food, pollens, insect sting, medicine) to which the child is already extremely sensitive. Anaphylaxis affects the entire body.

### **Anaphylaxis is a medical emergency that requires a rapid response.**

The key to prevention on anaphylaxis is identifying triggers and preventing exposure to these triggers. The School's main aim is to assist the students in the avoidance of allergic reactions. The school, parents/caregivers and the child need to work in consultation to develop prevention strategies and ensure that Emergency Response Plans are in place for all school related activities.

### PARENT/CAREGIVERS RESPONSIBILITY

If your child is at school and is at risk of anaphylaxis, you must:

- Inform staff of the diagnosis and its cause and immediately inform staff of any changes to this diagnosis.
- Discuss prevention strategies with staff.
- Work with staff to develop an anaphylaxis management plan.
- Complete the School Student Medication Request and Record Form.
- Provide the school with an up-to-date Anaphylaxis Action Plan (<http://www.allergyfacts.org.au/actionplans.html>) or a clear copy of the plan, that is signed by the child's medical practitioner and has a **current photograph** *before the child commences the current school year*.
- Visit the health department website for all the up to date information <http://www.health.wa.gov.au/anaphylaxis/home/>
- Supply the child's Epipen before the child commences the current school year and replace it before it expires or after it has been used.
- Attend a training and/or information session within the school, where possible.

### STAFF RESPONSIBILITY

- Know the identity of children who are at risk of anaphylaxis.
- Liaise regularly with parents.
- Be familiar with, and follow information contained in the child's Anaphylaxis Action Plan.
- Attend School initiated training in how to recognise and respond to an anaphylactic reaction, including administering an Epipen.
- Ensure the Epipen is stored correctly (at room temperature and away from light) in an unlocked, easily accessible place.
- Know where the child's Anaphylaxis Action Plan and Epipen are located.
- In the event of a reaction, carefully follow the procedures outlined in the child's Anaphylaxis Action Plan.

### MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Every reasonable effort will be made to minimise the risk of exposure and reactions through the following strategies:

- Requesting that parents/caregivers do not give children nuts or foods containing nuts to bring to school.
- Removal of items from the school canteen and events within the school grounds with peanuts/nuts in the ingredients list.
- Ensuring children wash their hands before and immediately after eating food.
- Parents/caregivers provide drink containers and lunch boxes which are clearly labelled with the name of the child for whom they are intended.
- Restricting the use of food in crafts, cooking classes and science experiments, depending on the allergies of particular children. Taking care with inadvertent use of artwork materials such as milk containers, egg cartons, nutshells and eggshells.
- Instructing personnel involved in food preparation about measures necessary to prevent cross contamination during the handling, preparation and serving of food. This includes the need for regular hand washing and careful cleaning of food preparation areas and utensils when preparing allergenic foods.

- Ensuring extra vigilance when there is a change from usual routines e.g. Relief Teachers, excursions, special pre-school or school days, camps and sports carnivals.
- Teachers being aware of the possibility of contaminated surfaces, books and equipment or toys that may have been used by other students.
- Ensuring there is no trading or sharing of food, food utensils and food containers. Making sure that children are taught not to share or accept food from others.