**ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY**

(* Anaphylaxis is hypersensitivity to a substance. Exposure can cause a sudden, severe allergic reaction characterised by a sharp drop in blood pressure, breathing difficulties and skin swelling. In some cases this reaction can be fatal if appropriate medical care is not available within a short period.)*

**PURPOSE**

- To prevent anaphylactic reactions in high risk students at the school.
- To educate the school community in measures to reduce the risk of exposure of high risk students to known anaphylactic triggers.
- To protect the whole school community from the trauma of an incident.

**IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES**

- The school will seek the full support of the parent community and advise of the policy in writing.
- An Anaphylaxis Action Plan for students will be displayed in the relevant areas of the school e.g Teacher offices, First Aid Room, Staffroom etc.
- Staff will be educated in the recognition of the risk and the steps that can be taken to minimise anaphylaxis. Teachers and other school staff who are responsible for the care of students at risk of anaphylaxis should receive training in how to recognise and respond to an anaphylactic reaction, including administering an EpiPen®.
- The school canteen will not sell items which contain any nuts. (This will not apply to foods labelled ‘may contain traces of nuts’.)
- The trading and sharing of food should be minimised as much as possible. In the case of class parties, students with anaphylactic reactions will be encouraged to provide their own food. (As educators we seek to develop responsible behaviours in our students.)
- It is ideal that students with food allergies only eat lunches and snacks that have been prepared at home.
- All drink bottles and lunch containers should be clearly marked with their names.
- Staff will be responsible for communicating measures to students that can be taken to minimise risk.

**EVALUATION**

The principal, staff and school community will undertake evaluation of the policy and program.

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