Anaphylaxis Policy

BACKGROUND:
Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. The most common allergens in school aged children are peanuts, eggs, tree nuts (e.g. cashews), cow's milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, certain insect stings and medication.

The key to prevention of anaphylaxis in schools is knowledge of those students who have been diagnosed at risk, awareness of triggers (allergens), and prevention of exposure to these triggers. Partnerships between schools and parents are important in ensuring that certain foods or items are kept away from the student while at the school.

Adrenaline given through an EpiPen® autoinjector to the muscle of the outer mid thigh is the most effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

PURPOSE:

- To provide, as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of the student's schooling.
- To raise awareness about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy in the school community.
- To engage with parents/carers of students at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies and management strategies for the student.
- To ensure that each staff member has adequate knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the school's policy and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

GUIDELINES FOR POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The key reference and support for the college regarding anaphylaxis is the DEECD Anaphylaxis Guidelines.

IMPLEMENTATION

INDIVIDUAL ANAPHYLAXIS MANAGEMENT PLANS

An individual management plan (Medical Alert) is developed, in consultation with the student’s parents, for any student who has been diagnosed by a medical practitioner as being at risk of anaphylaxis. The individual anaphylaxis management plan will be in place as soon as practicable after the student enrols.

The individual anaphylaxis Medical Alert will set out the following:

- Information about the diagnosis, including the type of allergy or allergies the student has (based on a diagnosis from a medical practitioner).
- Information on where the student's medication will be stored.
- The student's emergency contact details.
- The emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction.
- Includes an up to date photograph of the student.

The student's individual management plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student's parents/ carers:

- annually, and as applicable,
- if the student's condition changes, or
- immediately after a student has an anaphylactic reaction at school.

It is the responsibility of the parent to:

- provide the emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) signed by a medical practitioner.
- inform the school if their child's medical condition changes, and if relevant provide an updated emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan).
- provide an up to date photo for the emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) when the plan is provided to the school and when it is reviewed.
- provide medication which is in date.

**COMMUNICATION PLAN**

All staff will be briefed once each semester on:
- the school’s anaphylaxis management policy
- the causes, symptoms and treatment of anaphylaxis
- the identities of students diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis and where their medication is located
- how to use an autoadrenaline injecting device
- the school’s first aid and emergency response procedures

Information about anaphylaxis, the school’s management policy and strategies for minimising risk will be communicated to parents on a regular basis. Posters will be displayed in prominent positions in the school.

Medical Alerts are provided to all classroom teachers and office staff. They are also placed in CRT folders for visiting teachers.

Yard duty bum bags include a key ring with photographs and information about students with allergies and other life threatening medical conditions.

**MINIMISING RISK**

- 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 TRAINING AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

Teachers and other school staff who conduct classes which students at risk of anaphylaxis attend, or give instruction to students at risk of anaphylaxis must have up to date training in an anaphylaxis management training course.

At other times while the student is under the care or supervision of the school, including excursions, yard duty, camps and special event days, the principal must ensure that there is a sufficient number of staff present who have up to date training in an anaphylaxis management training course.

Training will be provided to these staff as soon as practicable.

The school’s first aid procedures and student emergency procedures plan (medical alert) will be followed when responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

**COMMUNICATING THE POLICY**

The school’s policy will be made available publicly on our school website.

**REVIEW**

The school council will regularly review its Anaphylaxis Policy as part of its cyclic policy and procedures review schedule.

**RATIFIED BY SCHOOL COUNCIL: February, 2014**