

# ALLERGY AWARE POLICY

## RATIONALE

There are students enrolled at Hendon who have anaphylactic (severe allergic) conditions when exposed to particular products such as dairy, eggs, fish and nuts. Reactions can be triggered by ingestion, contact or inhalation causing an anaphylactic reaction which can be very severe and sometimes life threatening.

## PRINCIPLES

The Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy states that “Whilst it is primarily the responsibility of parents that the child is taught to care for themselves, the school has a role to implement the care plan and reinforce appropriate avoidance and management strategies.”

ASCIA Guidelines for Prevention of Food Anaphylactic Reactions in Schools, Preschools and Childcare, 2011.  
[www.allergy.org.au](http://www.allergy.org.au)

DfE schools are required to provide safe and supportive learning environments. At Hendon this includes providing for the needs of students and staff who have anaphylactic conditions.

## POLICY STATEMENT

Risk minimisation, rather than attempting to prohibit certain foods, is recommended by allergy organisations. While it is not possible to guarantee that the school environment will be completely free of potential nut hazards, risks can be minimised by adhering to reasonable guidelines. The emphasis is on raising awareness and adopting reasonable procedures as outlined in the Operational Guidelines which supports this policy.

## OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

### SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

Students with anaphylactic reactions require;

- A standardised Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) Action Plan which includes a photo of the student, his/her allergies, what action to take in the instance of a reaction occurring, and the name and contact details of the doctor who completed the plan. This information will be available for the class teacher, relief teacher’s package, Canteen, First Aid Room and Staff Room.
- Support from the class teacher and other staff in implementing the Health Care Plan.
- Promotion of appropriate avoidance and management strategies through the newsletter.
- Assurance that the Canteen and other school lunch providers comply with the “Allergy Awareness Policy”.
- Provision of additional information to classes with students at risk of anaphylaxis if requested by the doctor.
- Inclusion of information in the Yard Duty bags to assist staff with identification.

### STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

Staff will;

- Support allergy awareness by reinforcing the Policy through classroom activities.
- Reinforce the Policy through reminders in the class newsletters when they have students with nut related anaphylactic reactions.
- Be trained and confident in the use of an Epipen, associated triggers and prevention strategies.
- Educate students about the hazards and risks associated for students with allergies.
- Reinforce and advise students not to share or trade their food and be vigilant when supervising the eating of recess and lunch foods.
- Encourage students to wash their hands after eating to help avoid cross contamination.
- If recommended by the student’s doctor, classes with younger students (Preschool – Year 3) may be provided with additional parent information. This may include a letter of request for parents of that classroom not to pack certain foods where the relevant nut is the main ingredient. (It does not apply to “may contain traces of nuts.”)

### STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students will;

- Not share or trade food.
- Be aware of students in the class who have a nut allergy and be sensitive to their needs.
- Wash their hands after eating food containing ingredients that students are allergic to.
- Eat away from students with allergies.