



# Anaphylaxis Policy



## Rationale:

- Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressing allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. Anaphylaxis always requires an emergency response. The most common causes in school aged children are eggs, peanuts, tree nuts (e.g. cashews), cow's milk, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, fish and shellfish, bee or other insect stings and some medications. A reaction can develop within minutes of exposure to the allergen.
- Staff, parents and guardians need to be aware that it is not possible to achieve a completely allergen-free environment. The school recognises the need to adopt a range of procedures and risk minimisation strategies to reduce the risk of a child having an anaphylactic reaction.
- Footscray West Primary School (FWPS) is "**allergy aware**" and **NOT a NUT FREE SCHOOL**. A nut free environment is not recommended as it is impossible to guarantee, which potentially provides a false sense of security to students, parents/guardians and staff.

## Aims:

- 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 schooling
- To raise awareness of anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy within the school community.
- To engage with parents/guardians of students at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimization strategies and management strategies based on their activity profile
- To ensure that each staff member has an understanding about allergies, anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction

## Implementation:

1. Actively seek information to identify students with severe life threatening allergies at enrolment and conduct a risk assessment of the potential for accidental exposure to allergens while the student is in the care of the school.
2. Ensure all students with anaphylaxis have a current (annual) written anaphylaxis management plan consistent with DET requirements completed by their doctor or pediatrician. Appropriate plan proformas are available on the ACSIA website at <http://www.allergy.org.au/health-professionals/anaphylaxis-resources/ascia-action-plan-for-anaphylaxis>
3. Advise parents/guardians that they are responsible for:
  - a) ensuring that the school is supplied with an EpiPen® for storage at school and;
  - b) informing the school of any changes to the emergency management of their child's condition.
4. Anaphylaxis plans will be displayed next to the sick bay; all staff will be made aware of the location. Information will also be displayed, with a photograph of the student/s concerned on the walls of the relevant classroom, specialist rooms, staffroom, canteen, and Casual Relief Teacher information.
5. Ensure that the Anaphylaxis Response kit is stored in a location that is known to all staff, easily accessible to adults (not locked away); inaccessible to children; and away from direct sources of heat. EpiPen®s will be labelled (with the child's name), and will be stored in the Anaphylaxis Response Kit. Clear written instructions on how to use the EpiPen® will be in the school anaphylaxis kit and displayed in the room next to the sick bay.
6. The first aid staff member will be responsible for checking EpiPen® expiry dates and advising the parents a replacement is required.
7. Classes with a child with anaphylaxis will hold a discussion about the condition and prevention strategies at the commencement of the school year. A letter will be sent at the commencement of the school year to the parents of all students in the same class as a child at risk of anaphylaxis, advising them of the condition.  
*Posters will be displayed in classes of older students*
8. Anaphylaxis Management Training will be provided every 3 years to staff by the departments recommended accredited provider. In addition professional development will be provided twice yearly for all staff (including specialist, casual relief and office staff) on the nature, prevention and treatment of anaphylaxis attacks, including the use of the EpiPen®
9. Ensure that the EpiPen® kit for each child at risk of anaphylaxis is carried by a trained adult on excursions that this child attends.
10. Community Education notices about anaphylaxis will be placed in the school newsletter, once a term.

## Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed annually

This policy was last tabled at School Council in....

June 2020

