

NUT AND OTHER ALLERGENS AWARENESS POLICY

Purpose:

The school's intention is to provide a safe learning environment for all members of the Hawthorndene Primary community by lessening the possibility of severe allergic reactions to nuts and/or nut products and other allergens as determined by specific needs of students.

Definition

Anaphylaxis or anaphylactic shock is a systemic allergic reaction that can be fatal within minutes; either through swelling that shuts off airways or through a dramatic drop in blood pressure.

Policy

The school may have at any given time a number of students or teachers with allergies that may result in an anaphylactic event and as such our policy is:

- Parents and caregivers are requested to not send food to school that contain nuts. In particular, peanut butter, nutella, peanut oil or other foods considered to be nut based
- No nut products to be included in food on special days i.e .cakes or in any cooking activities at school or on school camps
- The school will regularly promote this policy and its purpose to ensure the community is informed and understands
- All staff will be informed of students identified with food allergies
- An up to date anaphylaxis pen will be on hand in the first aid room at the front office
- Staff are required to take Epi-pens, medications and medical plans on any camps and excursions
- School teaching staff will supervise eating at lunch time in classrooms or another confined area, ensuring students have clean hands. Students will be encouraged to also wash their hands at the conclusion of their eating time and before setting off for the play period
- Students will be encouraged to not share their food
- All staff will participate in training for understanding and dealing with Anaphylaxis as part of first aid reaccreditation
- The Blackwood High School canteen will comply with this policy in the provision of their menu
- Relief teaching staff will be advised of students with allergies as per class lists and through the yard duty bag
- Parents to provide up to date medication and action plans.

Students:

Students with the potential for allergic reactions, where it has been medically determined, hold some responsibility for monitoring their intake of safe foods and working with class teachers in assisting to keep themselves safe.

Promotion:

The policy will be promoted by:

- Parents and caregivers being informed via the newsletter & other correspondence
- New families to the school community being informed via the Enrolment Information Package
- Specific Information and an Anaphylaxis Action Plan provided by a medical practitioner requested from the family at the time of enrolling a student with an allergy
- Staff being informed and provided with training opportunities
- Students being informed via teachers and newsletter

We acknowledge that due to modern day food processing practices it is impractical to eliminate nuts, nut products and other food allergens entirely from an environment where there is food and as such, that students with allergies and their parents play a strong role in keeping themselves safe through the monitoring of their food intake.

Reviewed 2018