

**ANAPHYLAXIS AND FOOD ALLERGIES AWARENESS POLICY**

It is important that the preschool community look after all students in its care. Whilst allergies to peanuts and egg are a relatively uncommon occurrence, we do have a growing number of students presenting with this affliction. As a preschool, we would like to provide responsible support for children who have such allergies and suffer severe anaphylactic reactions that may be life-threatening. To this end, we endeavour to ensure Virginia Preschool is a **NUT and EGG AWARE PRESCHOOL** and seek the preschool community’s co-operation in supporting the safety of all students at preschool.

We ask families not to bring nuts or nut associated products such as peanut butter, nutella or nut spreads. We also ask families not to bring eggs such as whole eggs or egg sandwiches. Foods labelled ‘may contain traces of nuts or egg’ may be brought to preschool, but we encourage families where possible not to bring these foods.

We acknowledge that many children come to school with allergies. Our aim is to not ban a range of foods from preschool as evidence suggests that this is not necessarily helpful in reducing the risk of anaphylaxis. We aim to educate our community about the risks associated with anaphylaxis and implement a broad range of strategies to minimise exposure to the known allergens.

**OUTCOMES:**

* Students with anaphylaxis will be safer and less likely to encounter substances that could initiate an attack.
* Staff, students & parents will be more aware of the dangers for some students in relation to their allergies.
* A supportive and caring approach by the preschool community is evident.
* Ideally, the incidence of anaphylactic attacks is minimised and/or averted altogether.

**WHAT IS ANAPHYLAXIS?**

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction. It occurs when a person is exposed to an allergen (such as a food, chemicals or an insect bite). Reactions usually begin within minutes of exposure and can progress rapidly over a period of up to two hours or more. Anaphylaxis is potentially life threatening and always requires an emergency response. Fortunately, anaphylactic reactions are uncommon and usually preventable. (*Reference: Anaphylaxis – Guidelines for Schools*)

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

Upon enrolment, parents should supply the preschool with as much information as possible regarding their child’s condition. The preschool requires an action plan supplied by a doctor.

Parents will supply any necessary medication and/or an EpiPen to the preschool, this medication will remain at preschool and will be kept in a safe, appropriate manner, accessible to staff only.

Staff need to be fully aware of those students who have severe allergies. Action plans need to be visibly displayed to refer to in an emergency.

ALL staff will be made aware of students who have severe allergic reactions.

Preschool parents will be asked **NOT** to supply their children with peanut butter, nutella and egg sandwiches, other nut products and whole eggs in an effort to minimise the chance of anaphylactic children coming into contact with an allergen. A child who comes to preschool with these foods will be offered an alternative from the canteen.

The sharing of food is to be discouraged, other than shared fruit that has been prepared by preschool staff.

Notices will be published regularly in newsletters to educate families about anaphylaxis.

**MOST IMPORTANTLY:** Parents of a child who suffers from anaphylaxis must be responsible for educating their child about their condition. Students who suffer from anaphylaxis must follow very strict rules in regards to their eating habits and to environmental hazards.

Staff will be trained in the administration of EpiPens

Staff must ensure EpiPens and medication accompany students on excursions.

**PLEASE NOTE:** \*\*Whilst we can promote the Anaphylaxis and Food Allergy Awareness Policy (nut and egg allergy awareness) within the preschool community, its success is totally dependent on the co-operation of the parent body to assist with its implementation.

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| Anaphylactic and Food Allergies Awareness Policy | Review Date: February 2025 |