



# ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

## FEBRUARY 2017

### 1. PURPOSE

Through this policy we aim to:

- i. 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.
- ii. Raise awareness in the school community about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis policy.
- iii. Engage with parents and carers of students at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies and managing strategies for the students.
- iv. Ensure that each staff member has adequate knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the school's policies and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

### 2. POLICY STATEMENT

It is important that school staff and the parent(s)/caregiver are confident about the management of students who have been identified as being at risk of an anaphylactic reaction (severe allergic reaction). Anaphylaxis is an uncommon occurrence. In most cases, anaphylactic reactions can be prevented with precautions to avoid the known allergen. When anaphylactic reactions occur an emergency response is required.

### 3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all students and staff members at St Patrick's.

### 4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- i. A reaction can develop within minutes of exposure to an allergen, but with awareness, planning and training, a reaction can be treated effectively by using an adrenaline auto-injector injected into the muscle of the outer mid-thigh.
- ii. St Patrick's Primary School recognises that it is difficult to achieve a completely allergen-free environment in a school context. St Patrick's Primary School is committed to adopting and implementing a range of procedures and risk minimisation strategies:
  - a. To reduce the risk of a student having an anaphylactic reaction at school, and:
  - b. To ensure that staff are trained to respond appropriately if a student has an anaphylactic reaction.

### 5. RESPONSIBILITIES

- i. Principal
  - a. At the beginning of every school year, organise for the staff to undergo anaphylaxis training using the Education Safety Network – <http://www.whsnet.com>. User name = HOSTING\mnsppsw. Password = mnsppsw19s. Go to e-learning – Anaphylaxis e-training for schools (ASCIA) - Schools courses for Australia or New Zealand. Create new ASCIA account. Module 3 must be done with practice epipens.
  - b. Maintain a record of staff training at [Staff Drive / Work Health and Safety / Staff training records](#).
  - c. Display an emergency response plan display poster in sick bay and staff room. Included on the emergency response plan display poster will be:
    - A photo of each person who is anaphylactic.
    - Allergies.
    - Prescribed medication.

- Emergency contacts.
  - Name, address, phone and fax numbers of the medical practitioner.
- d. Ensure that an epipen is located in the sick bay.
  - e. Designate a specific lunch area for each class.

ii. Staff

- a. Ensure, as far as possible, that the only food consumed by an allergic student is approved and provided by the student's parent.
- b. Be aware that craft items can be risky, e.g. egg cartons, milk containers, peanut butter jars.
- c. Discourage any sharing of food by students.
- d. Take an epipen on all excursions that anaphylactic students attend. If a student has been diagnosed with anaphylaxis, the individual health care plan must be updated to address the student's needs on excursions following completion of the excursion risk assessment. Excursions may pose different hazards to the school environment and the health care plan must be updated accordingly.

6. **BUDGET**

The school will make provision each year in its annual budget for professional development opportunities for the staff in regard to this area.

7. **NEXT REVIEW DATE**

This policy will be reviewed in 2020 in consultation with relevant staff.

8. **DEFINITIONS**

- i. Anaphylaxis: A severe, rapidly progressing allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. The most common causes in young children are eggs, nuts, cow milk, bee or other insect stings, and some medications.
- ii. Adrenaline auto-injector (also known as an epipen): A device for injecting epinephrine, a chemical that narrows blood vessels and opens airways in the lungs. These effects can reverse severe low blood pressure, wheezing, severe skin itching, hives and other symptoms of an allergic reaction.

9. **LEGISLATIVE / PROFESSIONAL GUIDELINES**

<http://www.whsnet.com>