

ALLERGIES

Rationale: Allergies, especially those that cause anaphylactic shock are becoming more prevalent in society/schools. With these allergies comes a responsibility by the school to put measures in place to support these children and their parents.

Purposes:

1. To meet the needs of these children/parents by developing a safe environment.
2. To make all members of the school community aware of the issues.

Broad Guidelines:

(For 2007 – referring to the Kindy / Pre-Primary area as well as the main school.)

Kindy/Pre Primary

1. Peanuts are banned; items with traces of peanuts are being discouraged (AVOID BRINGING TO SCHOOL). The school has produced a set of guidelines to help parents make decisions on what to and what not to send to school.
2. Anyone (including parents) entering the rooms within the Kindy / Pre-Primary complex will be expected to wash their hands if they intend to touch anything. Kindy / Pre-Primary children have always washed their hands before eating (recess and lunch). They wash their hands at the start of the day (upon entering a room) and before and after eating at recess and lunch.
3. Staff will inspect food containers to make sure that foods with nuts or nut products are removed. In these instances the children will be offered alternatives to eat (fruit, rice crackers etc). Children with products containing traces of nuts and/or have been processed on equipment that also processes nuts will be required to sit away from the anaphylactic children, to eat their food, dispose of wrapping and to wash hands and rinse mouth.
4. The school will purchase stainless steel utensils to stop cross contamination of foods.
5. Children who accidentally bring peanuts or nut products to school will have the food removed and replaced with a substitute (eg. vegemite sandwich from the canteen). Parents who repeatedly send the peanuts or nut product will be contacted by the school administration.

Main School

1. Peanuts and foods containing peanuts or nut products to be banned. Products containing traces of nuts/tree nuts and /or processed on equipment that also processes nuts will be discouraged.
2. The canteen does not sell any peanut items (developed in 2005). Any items with traces of peanuts are listed on the canteen menu stating (traces of peanuts)
3. All cooking etc to be monitored by teachers and EA's especially the kitchen area of the Junior Block. This is especially important for the after activity cleaning up process.
4. Parents to be made aware of the process as part of the school's regular newsletter as well as other one off notes.
5. School website to highlight we are an "ALLERGY FRIENDLY" school (concerned about anaphylaxis etc).
6. Children to be reminded by staff and early each term have class discussions about food items brought to school. (Incorporated into class meetings)
7. Other ideas to be incorporated as necessary.

Additional Information

1. Can be found on the internet.

For example:

<http://www.allergyfacts.org.au>

http://www.medeserv.com.au/ascia/mediareleases/peanut_anaph.htm

<http://www.healthinsite.gov.au/topics/Anaphylaxis>

http://www.disability.vic.gov.au/dsonline/dsarticles.nsf/pages/Food_allergy_and_intolerance?opendocument

<http://www.cs.nsw.gov.au/rpa/allergy/resources/allergy/peanutallergy.pdf>

Conclusion:

2009 is the fourth year the school has become allergy friendly. It is acknowledged that some parents will object to some measures if they impact on their home lives. The school duty is to focus on the safety of students with these allergies. As some of these children enter the main school during 2008, the situation will be monitored carefully, to make this a community aware programme.