



NAILSWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

Underpinned by DECD Policies: Draft Policy

Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction which is potentially life threatening. It should always be treated as a medical emergency, requiring immediate treatment. Most cases occur, after a person with a severe allergy is exposed to the allergen usually a food, insect sting or medication. The highest risk of anaphylaxis at school is considered to be in relation to food. Given that peanuts and tree nuts are the most likely foods to cause fatal anaphylaxis, this is the major focus of this policy. This policy is based on the 'ASCIA guidelines for prevention of anaphylaxis in schools', Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health 49, 2013.

ON ENROLMENT or IF AN ALLERGEN IS IDENTIFIED

It is expected that parents would inform the school of any relevant medical condition including anaphylaxis. Prior to starting school or as an allergen is identified, the parent of an anaphylaxis child is required to ask their doctor or allergy specialist to complete an:

- ASCIA Anaphylaxis Action Plan and DECD Anaphylaxis and Severe Allergy care plan.

On receiving the plan, a school leader, a support officer with first aid responsibility, and the parent/s will meet to develop a school health support plan. This plan will include how an allergic reaction can be prevented, what should be done in the event of a reaction and medication that is required to be kept at school. Where required anaphylaxis management training for staff (including Out of School Hours Care) who might care for the child at risk of anaphylaxis, will be undertaken. In young children, generally considered to be junior primary classrooms Foundation to Year 2, where there is a child with a severe nut allergy, food removal of all nuts from a classroom may be considered based on medical advice. The ASCIA Anaphylaxis Action Plan and DECD Anaphylaxis and Severe Allergy care plan are required to be **updated annually by a doctor**.

Copies of this plan will be kept:

In the child's school file. In the school's first aid files located in the first aid area. In the class teacher's files and where relevant, at NPS OSHC. A photo of the child will be displayed in the first aid area with a brief description of the relevant medical condition.

STRATEGIES TO MINIMISE RISK

While it is primarily the responsibility of parents to teach their allergic child to care for themselves, the school also has strategies in place to minimise risk. As per medical advice, blanket bans of foods are not recommended in schools because of the practicalities and complacency about avoidance strategies if a food is banned.

NUT AWARE SCHOOL STRATEGIES

Communication to parents include the Parent Handbook received at the time of enrolment, newsletters, class teacher letters to parents and posters around the school. Parents will be encouraged not to send foods containing nuts to school.

- There will be no trading of food and sharing of food, food utensils and food containers.
- It is ideal that children with severe allergies should only eat lunches and snacks that have been prepared at home.
- Drink bottles and lunch boxes provided by the parents of their children should be clearly labelled with the name of the child they are intended for.
- Any class/school activities that involve the use of food including crafts, cooking classes, science activities, special events and fundraisers will undertake a risk assessment prior to the event with the aim of eliminating risk. This may result in substitution of ingredients or alternative arrangements for relevant children.
- Through the development of the health care plan, a supply of treats will be negotiated with the parent for unplanned special events such as a birthday cake. The school office will keep a supply of treats for Anaphylaxis students.

SCHOOL CANTEEN

The NPS school canteen is outsourced to a private provider. Through contract arrangements the contractor will be required to eliminate all nut products. However, parents should check the appropriateness of all foods with the manager.