



Anaphylaxis Policy

Our commitment to our students with anaphylaxis is to ensure that they can fully learn, live, love and celebrate in our school community. St Benedict's School will provide current and relevant information and awareness for the entire school community in relation to Anaphylaxis. St Benedict's School will implement specific procedures to ensure that the affected students are not exposed to designated allergens. Emergency response procedures in case of accidental exposure will be clearly stated, understood, implemented if necessary and evaluated.

Context

St Benedict's School has students who have been identified by Allergy Specialists as likely to develop a life threatening allergic reaction that requires emergency medical treatment if exposed to specific allergens. Strict avoidance of the allergen/s is the only way to avoid a life threatening allergic reaction when catering for the needs of very young students.

School Provided Information and Awareness

St Benedict's School will provide current and relevant information and awareness for the entire school community in relation to Anaphylaxis.

Possible Guidelines

- Letters to parents of children in the students' year level – informing them of the students' condition and outlining some ways they can help to keep the school a safe environment for the students with anaphylaxis.
- Access from the Allergy Unit of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital the comprehensive list of safe foods: Food List Booklet.
- Letters to parents with a list of lunch box ideas- including safe brands of foods (Purpose- educate/remind and update information)
- Use of Class Orientation to introduce strong encouragement of peanuts, mushrooms, chickpeas and fish products free classrooms.
- Use of Parent Night at the beginning of the year to follow up regarding strong encouragement of a classrooms free of peanuts, mushrooms, chickpeas and fish products.
- All staff to be in-serviced annually in anaphylaxis, school policy and the use of the epi-pen.
- Photos of students with specific allergies to be presented to the staff.
- Educate parents by using the St Benedict's School Newsletter (once per term).
- Annually across all year levels engage in at least one Education/Sensitisation Activity or Program e.g. Be A M.A.T.E. Program; Be a PAL: Protect A Life from Food Allergies, Use of literature/videos e.g. Jeremy's Cake; Jeremy's Magic School Day.
- Use of Anaphylaxis Society for talks at P & F Meetings; Parent Nights, ideas for Newsletter segments, update of suggestions for lunchboxes.
- Sharing information with and asking the co-operation from other students, parents and parent organisations.
- Maintaining open communication between the parents of the students with life threatening food allergies and St Benedict's.

- Parents of students with Anaphylaxis invited to come to the class to share foods and/or recipes (which their children can eat) with other parents and children.

School Specific Procedures

St Benedict's school will implement specific procedures to ensure that affected students are not exposed to designated allergens.

Possible Guidelines

- Affected students eat food that is only prepared at home.
- Students wash their face and hands after eating and before playtime (alternative is to use wipes).
- Classroom cooking experiences to select ingredients that do not include designated allergens – highly recommended in the classroom of the targeted student/s.
- Students to be informed of the situation and reminded never to share food and drink.
- Provide allergen free areas, e.g. Prep/Year 1 students eating lunch in their respective classroom/s or designated out of class area.
- Avoid allergens hidden in school activities, e.g. play dough, stuffed toys, pet foods, box construction (e.g. empty boxes sent for craft).
- Taking precautions during special celebrations and attempting to plan activities which are not food-oriented.
- Taking special precautions in planning excursions and extracurricular events.
- Supervision at eating time – especially for the very young students.
- Birthday cakes – students need own supply of cakes/biscuits – clearly labeled container kept in class freezer compartment.
- Items for art and craft activities are only used if they have not contained contaminated food.
- A nominated staff member is present at eating times to supervise students to ensure non-exposure to allergens and support with after eating hand-washing (important for very young students).

Emergency Response Procedures

Emergency response procedures in case of accidental exposure will be clearly stated, understood, implemented if necessary and evaluated.

Possible Guidelines

- Up to date Anaphylaxis Action Plan signed by the treating Doctor. This Action Plan includes the student's photo, allergic triggers, signs and symptoms of a reaction and first aid response/medication. Copies displayed in Classroom, First Aid Room, Staff Room, Tuck Shop, School Office and Specialist Classrooms.
- In the event of an emergency response the parents/guardians are contacted as soon as possible after the response.
- Students' medication and Epi-pens are kept in the First Aid room (except when requested otherwise by a doctor).
- Education of all staff in relation to the Emergency Response – Anaphylaxis Action Plan including the use of the Epi-pen (St John's).
- An up to date supply of an Epi-pen to be provided by parents –clearly labelled date for Epi-pen renewal kept on sticker on Epi-pen.
- Trainer pens and the Epi-pens are clearly labelled and stored in a covered and secure area, but

unlocked for easy access. All staff should know the location of the Epi-pen.

- Need of phone/intercom in classroom.
- Walkie/talkie or mobile phone may be carried by teacher on playground duty and when on school excursions.
- The school should annually simulate an anaphylactic emergency – similar to a fire drill/lockdown- to ensure that all elements of the Anaphylaxis Action Plan /Health Support Plan are in place.
- School emergency procedures for students should be reviewed at a Student Support Team Review Meeting– twice per year.
- In the event of an emergency response an immediate evaluation of the procedures employed is to be undertaken.
- Student may wear white band around school hat for easy identification.

** For very young students the procedures employed are beyond the usual duty of care procedures within a school community so it is possible that funding can be accessed through the Additional Personal Support Provision. It would be expected that this funding is short term and that the time of accessing this funding should be used to encourage teaching/learning of self-management strategies e.g. (personal wipes carried in pocket to wipe general school surfaces – bubbler taps, toilet taps, toilet doors etc; non-sharing of lunches; reading/checking of food labels etc).*