

# ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

## Rationale:

- Anaphylaxis is an acute allergic reaction to certain food items and insect stings. The condition develops in approximately 1-2% of the population. The most common allergens are nuts, eggs, cow's milk and bee or other insect stings, and some medications.

## Aims:

- To provide a safe and healthy school environment that takes into consideration the needs of all students, including those who may suffer from anaphylaxis.

## Implementation:

- Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening condition.
- Signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis include hives/rash, tingling in or around the mouth, abdominal pain, vomiting or diarrhoea, facial swelling, cough or wheeze, difficulty breathing or swallowing, loss of consciousness or collapse, or cessation of breathing.
- Anaphylaxis is best prevented by knowing and avoiding the allergens.
- Our school will manage anaphylaxis by:-
  - identifying susceptible students and knowing their allergens
  - informing the community about anaphylaxis via the newsletter
  - not allowing food sharing, and restricting food to that approved by parents
  - keeping the lawns well mown, ensuring children always wear shoes, and not allowing drink cans at school.
  - requiring parents to provide an emergency management plan developed by a health professional and an EpiPen if necessary, both of which will be maintained in the first aid room for reference as required
  - ensuring staff are provided with regular professional development on the identification and response to anaphylaxis and the proper use of an EpiPen as per the DEECD requirements
- The school won't ban certain types of foods (eg: nuts) as it is not practicable to do so, and is not a strategy recommended by the Department of Education or the Royal Children's Hospital. However, the school will request that parents do not send those items to school if at all possible; that the canteen eliminate or reduce the likelihood of such allergens, and the school will reinforce the rules about not sharing and not eating foods provided from home.

## Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

**October 2012**