

Food Allergy Awareness Guidelines

Context

These guidelines assist all members of the school community to prevent anaphylaxis and minimise the potential risk for members of our community who may experience severe food allergies.

The school acknowledges that due to food processing practices it is impractical to eliminate exposure to confirmed allergen/s however we aim to minimise this wherever possible.

At various times a class teacher may require more restrictive requirements due to the needs of a child in the class. It is expected that families support the recommendations of the school and/or class teacher.

Purpose:

- To assist in providing a safe learning environment for all members of the Athelstone School community
- To raise the awareness of all members of the community regarding allergies.

Management

- Children with severe food allergies should only eat lunches and snacks that have been prepared at home. If purchasing from elsewhere parents/caregivers should check the appropriateness of foods by contacting the relevant person/organisation.
- All staff, parents and caregivers are requested to be aware of the food they send to school that contain allergens (i.e. nuts, eggs, fava beans etc.). All lunchboxes and drink bottles should be clearly labelled with the name of the child for whom they are intended.
- Food and nutrition education will be taught that incorporates education about food allergies and any practical activities that are planned will assume that some participants may have a food related allergy.
- Food will not be supplied to children with anaphylaxis unless pre-arranged and agreed to by the family.
- Food preparation will follow standard precautions to avoid cross contamination.
- Planning camps and excursions will take into account food supply services, including discussing the full menu with families.
- Risk assessments will be conducted if any fundraising activities involve food and appropriate risk controls applied.
- Food is not given as a reward/treat unless negotiated in advance.
- Students are to be seated when eating at all times.
- Staff are to supervise eating at lunch time.
- Students will be encouraged **NOT** to share food unless a shared lunch has been arranged and families are informed.
- Students will be instructed to wash hands before and after eating.
- Students bringing food that contains nuts or nut products may be asked to eat away from any other students and to wash their hands before going to play.
- School staff will participate in training, involving understanding and dealing with anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions).

- Class teachers will inform their students of these guidelines.

The guidelines will be promoted by:

- Parents and caregivers being informed via the newsletter and website
- New families to the school community being informed via the Enrolment Information Package and website.
- Staff being informed and provided with training opportunities and the guidelines will be placed in the staff information package.
- Students being informed via teachers, signs and the newsletter.