

**Holy Family Primary School
GOWRIE**



ANAPHYLAXIS
Policy



Anaphylaxis Policy

Related Policies

HF First Aid Policy
HF Dispensing of Medication
CE Medical Welfare of Students

Purpose

An increasing number of children suffer from allergies that can be life threatening. Therefore it is imperative that staff are very aware of the potential triggers for individuals, which must be brought to their attention by the parent. Symptoms and treatment are written up in “Emergency Action Plan” for each child that are displayed in the sick bay.

As with other health conditions, the school provides support to assist the parents in the management of their child’s health. The school community must be educated in the risks these children run in the course of their everyday lives and encouraged to support them by avoiding triggers, especially those found in food and animal substances.

Definitions

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction. It occurs when a person is exposed to an allergen (such as a food or an insect bite). Reactions usually begin within minutes of exposure and can progress rapidly over a period of up to two hours or more. Anaphylaxis is potentially life threatening and always requires an emergency response. Fortunately anaphylactic reactions are uncommon and usually preventable.

Procedures

At time of enrolment, it is the responsibility of the parent to notify the school that their child is at risk of an anaphylactic reaction or if the student is already enrolled, as soon after diagnosis as possible.

Parents are informed of the school policy: that a child suffering from anaphylaxis must have:

- An “Emergency Action Plan” drawn up by their doctor that is presented to the school.
- If the doctor states that the child must have access to an EpiPen then the parents must provide their child with an EpiPen and action plan.
- If the doctor states that an EpiPen is not needed then medication will be administered as indicated on the Action Plan. It is the parent’s responsibility to provide the medication.
- At the beginning of the school year, a copy of the Emergency Action Plan will

be given to teachers who have children in their class who have a diagnosed severe allergy/ies.

- The school will purchase each year two junior EpiPens that are carried by the two teachers on East and West oval duties. These are housed in separate black pouches that are collected from the Front Office prior to commencement of Recess and Lunch duty times.
- Each child's EpiPen is kept in a secure, yet accessible location in the child's classroom and must be taken by the teacher when the class leaves the school premises.
- All teachers, including casual teachers, should avoid giving children food of any type particularly nuts/lollies/chocolates and take care to supervise the children's eating.
- Students are not to share food/drinks.
- Where applicable only, teachers will need to ensure that each member of the class washes their hands before school begins, after the breaks, after handling any possible allergens.
- Students provided with allergen containing food by their parents will be encouraged to tell the teacher, sit apart from the potentially affected child and wash their hands after eating. Classroom teacher will contact child's parent requesting that such food not be brought to the school.
- All teachers must immediately alert the front office, if they are concerned about the wellbeing of any child especially if he/she may be going into anaphylactic shock.

Staff responsibility in an emergency

In an emergency, all staff have a duty of care. Staff are to use common sense, which dictates that in an emergency, while they should not act beyond their capabilities and qualifications, they are expected to do what they can to take appropriate action.

The student's individual Emergency Action Plan will spell out what needs to be done. It includes an emergency response plan detailing how to deal with a reaction should it occur.

Early recognition of symptoms and immediate treatment could save a child's life.

Training in the management of anaphylaxis

The Principal will inform staff about anaphylaxis and advise them of relevant details of the individual student's severe allergy. Training in the use of the EpiPen will be provided annually by an authorized agency. Eg. Allens, as part of annual CPR training.

References

Nil

Forms

Approved by:	Holy Family School Board
Implementation Date:	2012
Policy last Updated:	August 2013
School Contact Officer:	Anne-Marie Marek