



## ST. ANDREW'S GRAMMAR

# NUT ALLERGY RISK MINIMISATION POLICY

<i>Date</i>	<i>Modified By</i>	<i>Ratified</i>	<i>Review</i>
August 2006	Head of Junior School	2007	2008
December 2006	OHS Committee	2007	2008
January 2008	Principal	2008	2009
July 2009	No change	N/A	N/A
May 2018	Principal	2018	2019
October 2024	Principal	2024	2026



# ST. ANDREW'S GRAMMAR

## Nut Allergy Risk Minimisation Policy

There are a number of children attending St. Andrew's Grammar that have severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) to certain food products such as peanuts. As a school we provide the best of care for ALL children and need to ensure that children with these allergic reactions are kept as safe as can reasonably be deemed possible.

### **Policy**

Anaphylaxis triggered by nuts can be caused by skin absorption of the smallest amount as opposed to other food allergies which generally require ingestion for a reaction to occur. Therefore, all nut products are not allowed at school as a very small smear passed from hand to skin contact or even via the touching of other objects such as taps, toilet flushes, door handles etc can result in an allergic reaction of some form in the children affected.

It is expected that all parents, staff and students support the School in the pursuit of ensuring the safety of these children by attempting to keep the School free of nut products as communicated by newsletters and at Parent Information Evenings at the commencement of each year.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

#### ***Principal and Staff***

- The school acknowledges a duty of care to provide a safe and supportive environment which addresses, to the extent possible, reduction of the risks of exposure to nut products and other allergens. This includes ensuring that the health care needs of the students are identified and managed at the school and during off-site activities.
- When students are enrolled, the Principal, or their delegate, will undertake health care planning with the parents and the School staff to identify the student's current health care needs. Information from the medical practitioner is an important part of planning and may need to include any changes in the condition from previous planning. The child's medical practitioner may indicate that the appropriate management procedures for an anaphylactic reaction are those in the standard Action Plan described by the ASCIA (Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy).
- An Emergency Action Plan (EAP) will be developed by the School in consultation with the parents/carers and implemented for the student. It will include specialist medical advice and a medical emergency plan as required. The EAP will be reviewed after any emergency response or at least annually.
- A communication and preventative education strategy has been developed in collaboration with the child's parents to inform the students peers, other staff and members of the School community of the medical condition and the possible impacts of the condition.
- Staff are advised as to how to address the possible negative impacts of social or emotional responses of other students to a child with severe allergic reactions. This may include teasing, bullying or daring a student to take health risks.
- The Principal will inform all teaching and non teaching staff that a child with severe allergic reactions and possible anaphylaxis is attending our school. This includes the Canteen staff where the triggers are food. Staff will be advised of the need for vigilant but discrete supervision.

- Relevant teaching and non-teaching staff are provided with appropriate training to administer health care in a medical emergency. This includes administration of an EpiPen.

### ***Parents/Carers***

- Parents/carers are responsible for the provision of accurate, up to date health information about their child, an EpiPen if required, and for ensuring that medication has not expired.
- Parents/carers should be encouraged to give permission to post photographs and medical information in key locations such as classrooms, playground duty files, school bus, staffroom, administration area or canteen.

### ***Students***

- Students who are old enough to understand its proper use should carry their own EpiPen.

### **Reducing the Risk**

The school will minimise the risk factors within our environment through the adoption of strategies that will include but are not exclusive to:

- All nut products are not sent to school with the children for recess or lunch breaks.
- Whenever a request is made to parents to supply a plate of food to the class room or school e.g. for morning teas, only those foods that are totally nut free should be labeled as such. All non labeled food will be deemed to have some non approved content.
- Risk minimisation will include asking parents of classmates not to send foods containing nuts to the School.
- Staff at the School are requested to not bring foods containing nuts to the School.
- Students with nut or other recognized allergies must wear “Medic Alert” bracelets.
- Nut products should not be consumed by any children in the confines of the school classrooms, undercover or play areas or at any school sanctioned activity.
- Parents will provide drink containers and lunch boxes which are clearly labeled with the name of the child for whom they are intended.
- Restriction of the use of food in crafts, cooking classes and science experiments, depending on the allergies of particular children in those classes.
- Instructing personnel involved in the food preparation about measures necessary to prevent cross contamination during the handling, preparation and serving of food. This includes the need for careful cleaning of food preparation areas and utensils when preparing allergenic foods.
- Ensuring regular hand washing and cleaning of bench tops. The risk of a life threatening anaphylaxis from casual skin contact, even with highly allergic foods such as peanuts appears to be low. However, such contact can cause hives.
- Ensuring extra vigilance where there is a change from usual routines e.g. excursions, special school days, camps and sports carnivals.
- Teachers being aware of the possibility of contaminated surfaces, books and equipment or toys that may have been used by other students.
- Ensuring there is no trading or sharing of food.
- Becoming an allergy friendly school through developing and promoting school policies and practices that address matters such as food availability and reducing exposure to triggers or known risk factors.

The exclusion from school of other food items that can cause anaphylaxis is not required as it is on medical advice that it is only nut products that can be absorbed through the skin to result in this reaction and other foods items require ingestion.