Allergy & Nut Aware Policy

Annesley Junior School

Dare to Become

Allergy and Nut Aware Policy

Purpose

This Policy describes how Annesley Junior School promotes allergy awareness and manages student allergies.

Allergic reactions occur when the immune system reacts to substances (allergens) in the environment that are usually harmless. Allergic reactions can be mild, moderate or severe. Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction. Anaphylaxis is life-threatening and requires prompt administration of adrenaline through an Auto Injection Device, often referred to as an EpiPen® or Anapen®.

To minimise the risk of exposure to foods that might trigger severe allergy or anaphylaxis reactions, Annesley is a 'Allergy and Nut Aware' school.

The school recognises that while policies and procedures to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction can be developed and maintained, they cannot achieve a completely allergen-free environment. Therefore 'allergy aware' is a more appropriate term than 'allergen-free'.

While we therefore do not claim to be 'nut-free', minimising exposure to peanuts and tree nuts, which are not staple foods that provide essential nutrients, can significantly reduce the level of risk for some students in our community.

The key to prevention of allergic reactions in school is knowledge of students who have been diagnosed as being at risk, awareness of allergies and prevention of exposure to those triggers that cause allergic reactions.

Procedures

All staff must be allergy aware and actively promote Annesley Junior School as an allergy aware school, whilst also maintaining students' privacy and dignity and following the correct procedures for sharing students' personal information.

All families are asked to not include nut or nut-based products in their child's lunches or food supplies.

Foods that have 'May contain...' statements can be consumed by students without a food allergy in the same location as students with a food allergy as long as they are not shared. It is important that students with allergies are not isolated from other students.

Children are not allowed to share food, utensils or food containers.

Staff members are also asked to not bring nut or nut-based products into the school for their own personal use and not use any nut or nut-based products or other allergens for students they are working with when cooking with students.

Our 'Allergy and Nut Aware Policy' must be considered and addressed when catering events at school. Nut or nut-based foods are not to be used or supplied and alternative food options must be available for other known food allergies. Ingredient lists for catered foods are to be provided to students and their families.

In classes where one or more individuals has an allergy other than nuts, parents may be asked to refrain from supplying food products that are likely to initiate an anaphylaxis response as detailed in their Action Plan.

Parents and/or caregivers who have a child with an allergy are required to advise and consult with the School at the soonest convenience to ensure that the School has all the necessary information for the management of the allergy, including and ASCIA Action Plan.

ASCIA Action Plans for known allergies are to be supplied by families and kept on record in the Front Office First Aid Room and on electronic student records. Personal allergy medication is kept in the Front Office First Aid Room, their expiry date monitored and taken by the supervising teacher or First Aid Officer when students are offsite on excursions or camps.

The School will provide training for relevant staff to manage anaphylaxis in those persons identified with the condition and to administer adrenaline using an Auto Injection Device or similar device, in an emergency situation. Auto Injection Devices are securely located in the Front Office and in the event of an emergency, a trained member of staff is able to administer the adrenalin. The Auto Injection Devices will be replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

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