

ST ANSELM'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL ALLERGIES MANAGEMENT POLICY

Learning and growing together through prayer, belief and love

This policy was approved by the Governing Body Pupil Committee on 18th April 2018 and should be read in conjunction with our suite of health care policies

INTRODUCTION

St Anselm's School is committed to the rights of children to the best possible health (Article 24 UNCRC) and therefore adopts a whole school approach to the health care and management of those members of our school community with specific allergies.

The school position is not to guarantee a completely allergen free environment, rather to minimise the risk of exposure, encourage self-responsibility, and plan for an effective response to possible emergencies.

AIMS

The School is committed to proactive risk allergy management through:

- The encouragement of self-responsibility and learned avoidance strategies amongst children suffering from allergies.
- Provision of regular staff awareness training on anaphylaxis.
- The implementation of a written management action plan where needed.
- The establishment of specific risk exposure minimisation practices and strategies wherever required
- Close liaison with parents of children with allergies.

RATIONALE

St Anselm's recognises that a number of pupils (and staff) may suffer from potentially life threatening allergies to certain foods or toxins from insects. The school seeks parent, staff and pupil support towards minimising the risk, whilst also concentrating on ensuring effective medical response to potential anaphylactic reactions.

This policy sets out to minimise the risk of any child suffering allergy-induced anaphylaxis whilst at school or attending any school related activity, and to ensure staff are properly prepared to manage such emergency situations should they arise.

The common causes of allergies relevant to this policy are nuts, (in particular peanuts), dairy products, fish, eggs, fruit, wasps, bees, and ants. The allergy to nuts is the most common high risk allergy, and as such demands more rigorous controls than the controls for allergies to dairy products, fish, eggs, fruit and wasps, bees and ants.

The underlying principles of the St Anselm's Allergies Management Policy include: -

- The implementation of effective risk management practices to minimise pupil, staff, parents' and visitors' exposure to known trigger foods and insects.
- Staff training and education to ensure an effective emergency response to any allergic reaction situation.

DEFINITIONS

Allergy - A condition in which the body has an exaggerated response to a substance (e.g. food or drug). Also known as hypersensitivity.

Allergen – A normally harmless substance that triggers an allergic reaction in the immune system of a susceptible person.

Anaphylaxis – Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a sudden, severe and potentially life threatening allergic reaction to food, stings, bites, or medicines.

EpiPen – the brand name for syringe style device containing the drug adrenaline, which is ready for immediate intramuscular administration.

Minimised Risk Environment - An environment where risk management practices have minimised the risk of (allergen) exposure to a reasonable level. Not an allergen free environment.

Anaphylaxis Management Action Plan– A detailed document outlining an individual pupil's condition, treatment, and action plan for location of EpiPen.

Management System – A system managed by the Welfare Staff which ensures continuity of the Management Action Plan (MAP) for the duration of the child's attendance at St Anselm's, liaison with the School Nurse and the identification of particular members of staff who will need to be trained and informed of these plans.

KEY STRATEGIES

General Aspects

- The establishment of clear procedures and responsibilities to be followed by staff in meeting the needs of children with additional medical needs.
- The involvement of parents, staff and the child in establishing the MAP.
- Ensuring effective communication of individual child medical needs to all relevant teachers and other staff.
- Ensuring First Aid Staff training includes anaphylaxis management, including awareness of triggers and first aid procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency.
- Parents will be required not to add nuts or nut products to packed lunches in line with the school's Food Policy
- Children are encouraged not to share lunch food with other children, to reduce the risk to children with food allergies.
- Parents are required to inform and supply school with updated Management Plan if any change occurs, during their child's education

RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing ongoing and accurate and current medical information in writing to the School.
- Providing the school with a completed MAP and any prescribed medication.
- Advising the school, should a child develop a condition during the year, or have a change in condition, and clarifying details accordingly in the MAP.
- The provision of written advice from the medical authority monitoring their child, which explains the child's allergy, defines the allergy triggers and reaction, and any required medication including EpiPens, and /or Piriton.
- Monitoring of expiry dates and replacing medication and for providing appropriate foods to be consumed by the child

Welfare Staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring the School receives medical documentation regarding a child's allergy.
- Ensuring there is an effective system to make certain this medical information is regularly updated.
- Ensuring that a MAP is provided by the child's parents.
- Ensuring that where children with known allergies are participating in residential and/or external visits, the risk assessment for those visits includes the MAP
- Ensuring that key staff are trained in the use of EpiPens and management of anaphylaxis.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

- The Group Leader will check with any food provider and ensure 'safe' food is provided, or that an effective control is in place to minimise risk of exposure.
- Where a pupil is prescribed EpiPen the Group Leader will ensure they or another supervising staff member is trained in the use of the EpiPen, and capable of performing any possible required medical treatment as outlined in the Pupil's MAP. This will include responsibility for the safe portage of at least 2 Epi-Pens, and the MAP of the child concerned.
- The Group leader will ensure that pupils with known allergies are named in the risk assessment.

SCHOOL MANAGEMENT OF SEVERE ALLERGIES (ANAPHYLAXIS)

- All school staff, supply teachers and support staff should be made aware of severe allergies and anaphylaxis and the emergency care procedures.
- Involved staff will know about the Management Action Plan
- Where an Epi-Pen is prescribed, one will be kept securely, but accessible in the Medical Room and a second Epi-Pen is to be retained securely, but accessible in the classroom.
- It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure that medication is supplied to the school.
- The medication is replaced as necessary ie on change of dose or expiry date.
- Unused medication is collected at the end of each academic year.
- All medication has the original pharmacy label attached stating the pupil's name, date of birth and dose.
- Consideration of a pupil's allergies is to be made with regard to any activity where they are likely to come into contact with allergens. For example food studies, International Week, Healthy Living Week, class parties.