



Allergy Aware Policy
Policy
STRATHAIRD PRIMARY SCHOOL
May 2018

Rationale:

- Allergy Awareness is the ongoing process of supporting those with Allergies through an effective program that informs and educates students, staff and parents in this area.

Guidelines:

- To promote the safety of all students as an ‘Allergy Aware’ school by supporting those that suffer from difficulties relating to allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis. We aim to educate all members of our school community regarding the medical risks, allergens, management and alternatives when supporting allergy sufferers.

Definitions:

What is Allergy?

An allergy occurs when the body’s immune system overreacts to a normally harmless substance. Substances that can trigger an allergic reaction are called allergens. Allergens that trigger an allergic reaction may be in medication, the environment, like pollens, grasses, moulds, dogs and cats, or sometimes in the food we eat. Individuals can have mild allergies or severe allergies. Up to 40% of Australian children are affected by allergies or some sort during their lifetime. The most common allergic conditions in children are food allergies, eczema, asthma and hay fever.

What is Food Intolerance?

Many people think their child is allergic to a food when in fact they are intolerant to a food. Food intolerance symptoms include headaches after eating too much chocolate, bloating after a milkshake or pasta, or skin hives after eating foods high in chemicals such as amines or salicylates. Food allergy is NOT the only cause of body symptoms after eating a food.

Symptoms that occur several hours after a food is eaten are more often a result of an intolerance to a natural food chemical or enzyme deficiency and are not an allergy.

Implementation:

Our school will be “Allergy Aware” through:

Parent Responsibilities

- Informing school through enrolment process of individual student risks and medical needs.
- Being informed and allergy aware of their child’s condition, preventatives and responses.
- Providing a management plan prepared by a health professional.
- Supporting Allergy Aware initiatives at school.

School Responsibilities

- Asking all parents to sign an agreement that they understand and are willing to support the “Allergy Aware School” program.
- Identifying students with known allergens, and ensuring they have a management plan prepared by a health professional.
- Providing appropriate professional development for staff.
- Developing management processes that are specific to particular allergens.

- Providing opportunities for the community to learn more about managing allergies and how they can support the student, family and the school.
- Ensuring the school canteen is aware and supportive of students with allergies wherever possible.
- Encouraging non-food party favours to celebrate birthdays and healthy, allergy aware class parties.

Student Responsibilities

- Being Allergy Aware of their own allergens and taking responsibility for their own health and safety wherever possible.

This policy should be read in conjunction to the school's Anaphylaxis Policy 2018

Review:

References:

- Strathaird PS Anaphylaxis Policy
- Strathaird PS Duty of Care

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on 15th May, 2018

Julie Kennedy
Principal

Chris Johnstone
School Council President



Dear Parent/Guardian,

As part of the ongoing process of meeting the needs of the Strathaird PS community we are seeking your support of the development and implementation of an "Allergy Aware School" program.

The "Allergy Aware School" program, through a proactive approach, aims to educate and support the school community in understanding and maintaining an environment that is as safe as practicable for all our students that are affected by allergies, ranging from mild hay fever to life threatening anaphylaxis

We have students with the life threatening allergic condition (anaphylaxis) at the school and we are asking for your support by agreeing to not provide products in your child's lunches that trigger these reactions.

Sadly, Anaphylaxis has resulted in an increasing number of deaths in children. While we appreciate that some parents may find it difficult to provide alternatives, your support may well save the life of a child and also avoid the situation of children seeing someone close to them suffer from anaphylactic shock.



Trigger foods are such things as nuts and eggs, with **nuts** being the greatest contributor to the most severe anaphylactic reactions. We request that parents provide alternatives to these products whenever possible to help minimise the risk of an anaphylactic reaction. For example, there is "Freenut Butter" and "Sweet William Chocolate spread" available from health food aisles at supermarkets.



We ask that parents support this program by signing the agreement below and returning to the school at the start of next term.

Parents might consider sending along novelty gift items rather than cupcakes to celebrate birthdays.

If you have any concerns or queries regarding this and how it may affect your child please contact the school on 9705 3800.

Thank you for your support of this program.

Regards,

Julie Kennedy
Principal

-----✂-----

I, _____ parent of _____ in grade/s _____

- will support the 'Allergy Aware School' program, aimed at ensuring the safety of all students at the school.
- will not support the 'Allergy Aware School' program, aimed at ensuring the safety of all students at the school.

Reason for not supporting the program:

Signed: _____

Date: _____