**GUNDAROO PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**ANAPHYLAXIS AWARENESS POLICY**

**RATIONALE**
It is essential that the school and community look after all students in its care. Whilst anaphylaxis is still a relatively uncommon occurrence, we do have a growing number of students presenting with this affliction. As a school, we provide responsible support for children who have such allergies and suffer severe anaphylactic reactions that may be life-threatening.

**WHAT IS ANAPHYLAXIS?**
Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction. It occurs when a person is exposed to an allergen (such as a food, chemical 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. *(Reference: Anaphylaxis – Guideline for Schools)*

**OUTCOMES**

- Staff trained in emergency procedures for dealing with anaphylactic shock.
- Students with anaphylaxis will be safer and less likely to encounter substances that could initiate an attack.
- Teachers, students and parents will be more aware of the dangers for some students in relation to their allergy.
- A supportive and caring approach by all the school community will be evident.
- Ideally, the incidence of anaphylactic attacks will be minimised and averted altogether.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

- School parents will be asked NOT to supply their children with peanut butter sandwiches and other nut products in an effort to minimise the chance of anaphylactic children coming into contact with an allergen.
- At all times, the sharing of food is to be discouraged.
- Families will be informed of the commitment to keep the school nut-free and be supportive of others.
- Any birthday treats supplied for the class by parents should be nut-free.
- All cakes made for cake stalls should be clearly labelled with a list of their ingredients.

**PRINCIPALS RESPONSIBILITIES**

- All staff will be notified as to which children suffer from Anaphylaxis.
- Staff will be trained in the use of an Epi Pen.
- EpiPens and medication need to accompany students on excursions
- All staff need to remain vigilant while students eat their lunch.
- It will be suggested to teachers, parents and classroom helpers that their wearing of strong perfumes and deodorants during school should be avoided if possible but particularly in the rooms of chemically-induced anaphylactic students.

**TEACHERS’ AND STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES**

- All and office staff need to be fully aware of students who have severe allergies. Action plans need to be visibly displayed for office staff to refer to in an emergency.
- ALL staff need to be made aware of students who have severe allergic reactions at a staff meeting.
**Parents’ Responsibilities**

- On enrolment, parents should supply the school with as much information as possible regarding their child’s condition. For severe anaphylactics, this should include an action plan supplied by a doctor. Parents should also notify the teacher on first meeting them.
- Where necessary, parents will supply all medication and an EpiPen to be kept at the school. This remains in the secure area of the office. Individual arrangements may be made with the teacher if an EpiPen is required in the room.
- MOST IMPORTANTLY: Parents must be responsible for educating their children about their restricted eating habits.

**Students’ Responsibilities**

- Students need to be aware of their condition and follow very strict rules as regards to their eating habits and environmental hazards.

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