



ST PIUS X CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL DUTY OF CARE IN SCHOOLS

Children spend over one third of their waking hours at school and are dependent on care givers such as parents, child care workers or teachers to provide a safe environment. Very young infants at pre-school and child care are probably at greatest risk, since food allergy is more common in this group because they are dependent on care givers to prepare and distribute food and more likely grab food or objects contaminated with food allergen. Education Department Guidelines generally emphasise the importance of providing a safe environment for children at school. Sometimes this means repairing broken play equipment, sometimes removing beehives and sometimes making recommendations about what foods should or should not be brought to school. Some Education Department Guidelines also allow staff to administer first aid and emergency medication if required, including adrenaline (Epipen).

Useful Websites

Anaphylaxis Australia Inc. 1300 728 000

www.allergyfacts.com.au

www.enjoylifefoods.com/Australia

coordinator@allergyfacts.org.au

HEALTH CARE PLAN (allergies)

Over the last few years the school has developed and revised a Health Care Plan to try to ensure that children with a medical concern who require medication or who may suffer an allergic reaction and require emergency treatment, are recognised and catered for.

Part of this plan is for the principal to inform the staff, at the commencement of the school year, of the children who are at most risk. This is accompanied by a medical form and photo in the school staff room.

It is important for the parents of these children to keep the school informed of any updated medical information.

The school should also be informed of children who are not at risk but have a medical condition. This information should be provided on the enrolment form and clarified

at the enrolment interview. These records need to be kept updated through the office, as staff receive a print out of children and their condition, at the commencement of the school year.

PEANUT ALLERGIES

Currently we have children in the school with a peanut allergy. After several staff discussions it was decided that declaring the school peanut free would be met with limited success, as it would be impossible to supervise. We also believe that it is creating a situation that is not reflected outside the school.

We have decided on several steps that will help minimise risk and we believe will be more effective than declaring a peanut free school

- Parents whose children have a peanut allergy will have to complete a school health plan (obtained from GP or School Office).
- Year levels that have a child in their room that suffers from a peanut allergy will be informed via writing at the commencement of the year.
- Staff have currently been upgraded on the use of an EpiPen and have been inserviced by the Community School Nurse on the dangers and treatment of those who suffer from a peanut allergy. First Aid training for all staff takes place every third year.
- Peanut paste is not sold in the canteen. Peanut paste is discouraged as a spread for sandwiches at school. Peanuts and other nuts are discouraged from being sent to school. Products containing nut derivatives are avoided.
- Parents of children with food allergies should provide some party alternative to be kept in the freezer or fridge for occasions when others may send in cup cakes.
- All year levels cover Educational Programs which create an awareness of Anaphylaxis focusing on preventative measures.