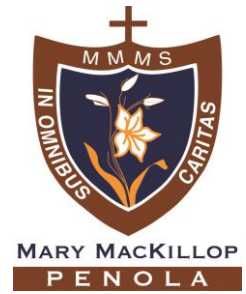


# Mary MacKillop Memorial School

# Allergens

# Management Policy



Developed by: Staff and School Board

## Notes:

1. All references to 'Staff members' include Administration Staff, Support Teachers, Teachers and Temporary Relieving Teachers.

## Underlying Assumptions, Philosophy and Rationale:

**We at Mary MacKillop Memorial School believe that:**

- we have a duty of care to provide a whole school approach to the health care management of those members of the school community suffering from specific allergies the common causes of allergies relevant to this policy are nuts (in particular peanuts), dairy products, eggs, wasps, bees and ants
- an allergic reaction to nuts is the most common high-risk allergy, and as such demands more rigorous controls throughout the policy.

## Purpose/Aims:

**Through the application of this policy, we at Mary MacKillop Memorial School aim to:**

- safely support students with severe allergies and anaphylaxis
- minimise the risk of exposure to allergens to any child or adult suffering allergy-induced anaphylaxis or reaction whilst at school or attending any school related activity
- encourage self-responsibility
- plan for effective responses to possible emergencies
- apply 5 key principles in the management of allergic reactions as follows:
  - obtain medical information relevant to known allergies
  - establish effective risk management practices to minimise the student, staff, parent and visitor exposure to known triggers where possible.
  - facilitate staff training and education to ensure effective emergency response to any allergic reaction situation.
  - provide age appropriate student education on allergy awareness and self-responsibility
  - review and monitor all Health Care Plans annually or as needed on a case by case basis

## Guidelines:

**In support of this policy:**

### The Principal will:

- discuss with parents their child's Health Care Plan
- ensure current medical information is available to staff regarding nut, egg and other food allergies and insect allergies
- ensure an updated Health Care Plan and photo of children with allergies is kept in the First Aid Room

- ensure an Epi-pen or other medications are kept in the First Aid room with a Senior First Aid staff member responsible for checking the expiry date
- publish reminders of the Allergens Management Policy regularly in the Newsletter
- inform new families on enrolment of the Allergens Management Policy
- reinforce appropriate avoidance and management strategies
- ensure all staff have up to date training in First Aid including the treatment of anaphylaxis and asthma.

**Staff members will:**

- reinforce appropriate avoidance and management strategies
- discuss Allergens Management Policy with their students at the beginning of each year
- keep an updated Health Care Plan and photo of the child in relevant class information folder for Relief Teachers
- ensure the Epi-pen is with the class teacher, specialist teacher or yard duty teacher (or with the child where appropriate)
- provide additional information for classes with children who have anaphylaxis
- ensure that any donated food items for 'treats' are free from nuts
- incorporate the Allergens Management Policy as part of Health and PE Program
- ensure children do not share food
- notify the food provider when on camps, excursions and incursions of any students with nut, egg or other food allergies
- take Epi-pen, medications and Health Care Plan on camps, excursions and swimming lessons. If the class teacher is not attending the event, it is their responsibility to relay relevant information and medication to the attending staff member
- remind children and parents of the Allergens Management Policy prior to school events where food is available for sharing
- be vigilant when on duty of bees, wasps and ant nests
- educate children to report significant presence of insects in play areas
- consult with parent of child with dairy, egg and food related allergies prior to cooking or preparing food with class

**Children will:**

- be mindful of the health and safety needs of other children and not bring foods such as peanut butter, Nutella and other foods which contain nuts
- be supported to take increasing responsibility for monitoring their exposure to known allergens
- be supported to gradually take responsibility for taking own medical bag (e.g. Epi-pen) and/or asthma puffer with them when moving from their classroom to other areas e.g.. hall, specialist lesson etc
- notify their teacher if they inadvertently bring any potentially harmful food to school so that risks can be minimised
- not share food.

**Parents and Carers of child with allergic reaction will:**

- meet with the Principal to discuss their child's Health Care Plan and the first aid response

- provide the school with an Epi-pen, puffer or medication which is clearly labelled and replace it before it expires
- support the class teacher and other staff in implementing the Health Care Plan
- teach and encourage their child to self-manage as appropriate

**All Parents and Carers will:**

- only send to school food that does not contain:
  - any fresh nut products
  - any spread containing nuts (all nuts, eg: peanut butter, nutella)
  - any muesli bar, biscuit or other product THAT LISTS NUTS AS AN INGREDIENT
  - packages of mixed fruit (eg: trail mix) that contain nuts as well
  - foods prepared with nut oil and satay products
  - recycled containers that may have contained nuts eg: Cereal, peanut butter jars, biscuits

Please note: Packaged food that states 'May contain traces of nuts' is permitted at school.

**Implementation:**

All staff, parents, carers and children will be made aware of and have access to the policy via the school newsletter and website.

Ratified by School Board 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Review Date 2027