

# Willaura Primary School

## ANAPHYLAXIS

### POLICY

#### Rationale:

- Anaphylaxis is an acute allergic reaction to certain food items and insect stings. The condition develops in approximately 1-2% of the population. The most common allergens are nuts, eggs, cow's milk and bee or other insect stings, and some medications. It can be life threatening and research indicates it is becoming more prevalent.

#### Aims:

- To provide a safe and healthy school environment that takes into consideration the needs of all students, including those who may suffer from anaphylaxis.

#### Implementation:

- Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening reaction to various foods or insect stings.
- Signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis include hives/rash, tingling in or around the mouth, abdominal pain, vomiting or diarrhoea, facial swelling, cough or wheeze, difficulty breathing or swallowing, loss of consciousness or collapse, or cessation of breathing.
- Anaphylaxis is best prevented by knowing and avoiding the allergens.
- Our school will manage anaphylaxis by:-
  - Providing face-to-face training at least every 3 years for all staff on anaphylaxis management organised through St John's Ambulance, and staff briefings twice yearly on anaphylaxis including the administering of an adrenaline auto-injector such as an EpiPen or an Anapen.
  - informing the community about anaphylaxis via the newsletter
  - informing students about allergies, including anaphylaxis causes and first aid, as part of the prep-6 curriculum.
  - not allowing food sharing, and restricting food to that approved by parents
  - keeping the lawns well mown and ensuring children always wear shoes
  - identifying susceptible students and knowing their allergens
  - requiring parents to provide an ASCIA emergency management plan developed by a health professional and an auto-injector if necessary, both of which will be maintained in the school office for reference as required. First aid staff will contact parents if the Use-By date of the injector is close to expiration.
  - All ASCIA Anaphylaxis Action Response Posters will be displayed in the school office as appropriate.
  - We will maintain open communication with parents.

#### PROVIDING A SAFE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

- Willaura Primary School will have 1 Prep student enrolled with anaphylaxis in 2016. The school will be a **NUT FREE SCHOOL for 2016, 2017 and 2018**, when this status will be reviewed. There is evidence that banning allergens for older students is not the most effective way to manage their anaphylaxis, however for very young children it is imperative that the school provide them with a safe environment.

- If additional students enrol with the same allergy, the NUT FREE STATUS will also be reviewed.

**Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed annually.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on....

**11<sup>th</sup> March 2017**