



**Acting Principal : Penny Wilde**

## Nut Aware Policy

**PIMPALA PRIMARY SCHOOL IS A "NUT AWARE"\* SCHOOL**

### PURPOSE

- To provide a safe environment for all members of the Pimpala Primary School community.
- To raise the awareness of all members of the community regarding severe allergies.

### MANAGEMENT

- Parents and caregivers are requested NOT to send food to school with their child that contains nuts (especially peanuts). This includes peanut paste products, peanut / satay sauce, nut biscuits, Nutella / chocolate spread, crushed nuts on cakes / buns, baklava or other nut pastries, nuts in salads, muesli bars, nougat, any other product with nuts as a usual ingredient as well as foods containing nuts.
- No nut products to be included in food on special food days (eg cakes, or in any cooking activities at school or on school camps).
- Staff will supervise students eating at lunch time.
- Students being encouraged NOT to share food.
- Students will be encouraged to wash hands before and after eating.
- Staff will participate in training from Red Cross in understanding and dealing with Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions) as the need arises.

### PROMOTION

- Parents and caregivers are informed via the Policy Statement being distributed to all families at the beginning of each year.
- New families to the school community are informed.
- Governing Council are informed.
- Staff are informed and provided with training opportunities in the treatment of anaphylaxis.
- Staff are aware of specific students via photographs / information in staffroom, sickroom, in the classroom, TRT folders and class roll books.
- Education, information and procedures are part of staff induction.
- The First Aid officer is in charge of Epi-pens and medications (these treatments will be supplied by the parent / caregiver).
- Staff are required to take Epi-pens, medications and medical plans on any camps & excursions.
- Students are informed via teachers, letters and items in the newsletter.

The Principal will obtain specific medical information from the family at the time of enrolling a student with a “nut allergy” (eg an Anaphylaxis Action Plan being provided by a medical practitioner).

This will include:

- Clear photo of the child;
- Documentation of the allergic triggers;
- Documentation of the first aid response and prescribed medication;
- Identification and contact details of the doctor who has signed the action plan.

The Anaphylaxis Action Plan will need to be reviewed every 12 months.

#### **Definition of Anaphylaxis**

Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a systemic allergic reaction that can be fatal within minutes; either through swelling that shuts off airways or through a dramatic drop in blood pressure.

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\* This school acknowledges that due to food processing practices it is impractical to eliminate nuts or nut products entirely from an environment where there is food. Therefore we have opted to be a Nut “Aware” School.

Advice from the Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy recommends minimising the risk of food-induced anaphylaxis in schools by:

- Obtaining medical information;
- Education of carers;
- Practical strategies to avoid exposure to known triggers;
- Age appropriate education of children with severe food allergies.