

Allergy Policy



We are children of God: we achieve, believe and care.

Ratified on: _____

Chair: _____

Headteacher: _____

To be Reviewed: Annually

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School Allergy Policy (including nut and food allergies)

Statement:

- This policy is concerned with a whole school approach to the health care and management of those members of the school community (pupils, parents, visitors and staff) from specific allergies.
- St. Joseph's School is aware that staff and children who attend may suffer from food, bee/wasp sting, animal or nut allergies and believe that all allergies should be taken seriously and dealt with in a professional and appropriate way.
- St Joseph's School does not guarantee a completely allergen free environment, rather to minimise the risk of exposure, encourage self-responsibility and plan for effective response to possible emergencies.
- St Joseph's School is committed to children not sharing food and drink.
- Parents are asked to provide details of allergies on admission to our school.

Aims:

The intention of this policy is to minimize the risk of any child or member of staff suffering an allergic reaction whilst at school.

An allergic reaction to nuts is the most common high risk allergy and as such demands more rigorous controls throughout the policy.

The underlying principles of this policy include:

- The establishment of effective risk management practices to minimise the child, staff, parent, visitor exposure to known trigger foods and insects.
- Staff training and education to ensure effective emergency response to any allergic reaction situation,
- This policy applies to all members of the school community including: staff, parents, guardians, volunteers, supply staff, students.

Roles of other parents:

Snacks and lunches provided by parents should be peanut and nut free. This includes:

- **Packets of nuts**
- **Peanut butter sandwiches**
- **Fruit and cereal bars containing nuts**
- **Chocolate bars and sweets that contain nuts**
- **Sesame seed rolls**
- **Cake made with nuts**
- **Chocolate/hazelnut spread sandwiches**

We have a policy to not use nuts in any of our food prepared on site at our school and our catering service is committed to using nut-free products. Parents and carers should ensure any sweets etc sent into school to be shared with others (eg birthday treats) should be nut-free.

Commented [LB1]:

All packaging should be checked for warnings directed at nut allergy sufferers and if the following are displayed, the product must not be used in school. Packaging must be checked for:

- Not suitable of nut allergy sufferers,
- This product contains nuts,
- This product may contain traces of nuts.

The school will ensure that parents are regularly reminded of the importance of nut free lunchboxes and snacks.

Definitions:

<i>Allergy</i>	A condition in which the body has an exaggerated response to a substance (eg food or drug) also known as hypersensitivity.
<i>Allergen</i>	A normally harmless substance that triggers an allergic reaction in the immune system of a susceptible person.
<i>Anaphylaxis</i>	Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a sudden, severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction to food, stings, bites or medicines.
<i>Adrenaline Auto Injector Device (AAI)</i>	A syringe style device containing the drug adrenalin, which is ready for immediate inter-muscular administration.
<i>Minimised risk environment</i>	An environment where risk management practices (eg risk assessment forms) have minimised the risks of (allergen) exposure.
<i>Risk assessment/ Individual Health Care Plan</i>	A detailed document outlining an individual child's condition, Treatment and action plan.

ALLERGY MANAGEMENT:

Procedures and responsibilities

- The involvement of parents and staff in establishing individual risk assessment/Individual Health care plans.
- The establishment and maintenance of practices for effectively communicating a child's health care plan to relevant staff.
- Staff training in anaphylaxis management, including awareness of triggers, and first aid procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency.
- Age appropriate education of the children with severe food allergies.

Medical Information

- Parents will initially highlight on a child's school admission form before starting school.
- For children with a food allergy, parents will then be asked to make an appointment with the Medical lead in school to complete an individual health care plan for the child. This will enable the parents to explain fully the condition, define any allergy triggers and any required medication. If needed, additional written or oral advice will be obtained for the medical professional.
- Any change to the child's medical condition during the year must be reported to school.

Adrenaline Auto Injector Devices (AAI's)

Where Adrenaline is required on an Individual Health Care Plan:

- Parents/guardians are responsible for the provision and timely replacement of the Adrenaline Auto Injector Devices. Ideally two devices are required.
- AAI's are located in the Green Room. These are out of reach of children but easily accessible to staff.
- Staff training and education regarding the use of AAI's will be carried out periodically.

Parents' Role

- Parents are responsible for providing medical information about their child's allergy in writing, by filling out an Individual Health Care plan with the Medical Lead. The Plan includes:
 - The allergen (substance the child is allergic to)
 - The nature of the allergic reaction (e.g. rash, breathing difficulties, anaphylactic shock)
 - What to do in case of allergic reaction, including any medication to be used and how it is to be used.
 - Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from getting into contact with the allergen.
 - It is the responsibility of the parents to provide the school with up to date medication/equipment clearly labeled in their original containers (as per Medication Policy)
 - Parents are also required to provide up to date emergency contact information.
 - Parents should liaise with staff about appropriateness of snacks and any food-related activities (e.g. cooking, science experiments)

Staff Role

Staff are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the policy and to adhere to health and safety regulations regarding food and drink.

- If a child's admission form states that they have an allergy, then an Individual Health Care Plan must be completed and signed by staff and parents **before** the child starts attending school. Any actions identified to be put in place.

- Upon determining that a child attending the school has a severe allergy, a team meeting will be set up as soon as possible where all staff concerned attend to update knowledge and awareness of the child's needs.
- All staff who come into contact with the child will be made aware of what treatment/medication is required and where any medication is stored.
- All staff will promote hand washing before and after eating.
- Snack time food is monitored by staff and are peanut, nut free and other known allergens depending on the children attending. All staff will know the procedures at snack and lunch time to ensure the safety of children with allergies. However, staff cannot guarantee that foods will not contain traces of nuts.
- All tables are cleaned with an approved solution.
- Children are not permitted to share food.
- As part of First Aid training, the use and storage of AAI's has been discussed.
- We may ask the parent for a list of food products and food derivatives the child must not come into contact with.
- Emergency medication will be easily accessible, especially at times of high risk.
- Staff should liaise with parents about snacks and any food-related activities; parental consent should be sought.

Actions

In the event of a child suffering an allergic reaction:

- We will delegate someone to contact the child's parents.
- If a child becomes distressed or symptoms become more serious telephone 999.
- Keep calm, make the child feel comfortable and give the child space.
- If medication is available, it will be administered as per training and in conjunction with the Medication Policy.
- If parents or responsible adult have not arrived by the time the ambulance arrives a member of staff will accompany the child to hospital.

Date:

Review date: