



FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS POLICY

Context

St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, catering for boys from Prep to Year 4 and girls from Prep to Year 6, is located in the Brisbane suburb of Kedron and is an educational ministry of the Catholic Parish of Little Flower, Kedron, forming part of the Brisbane Archdiocesan system of schools.

Mission

St Anthony's is a faith community where Gospel Values are central to the life-force and functioning of this Franciscan school.

Values

A school steeped in the valuing of relationships and all that it means to be a follower of Christ.

Our 5 Franciscan Values

Respect.

We value and respect each person's uniqueness.

Shared Responsibility.

Collectively we share the responsibility for the development of each member of our school family.

Reverencing Creation.

We give praise and are thankful that all things are gifts from God.

Contemplation.

We are reflective people who understand that life-giving growth comes from saying sorry and accepting forgiveness.

Joy.

We embrace a joyful, fun attitude that is forever grateful for God's gifts.

Statement of Policy

St Anthony's School at Kedron is an **Allergy Aware School** where the health and safety of our students is paramount. Enrolled within our school are a number of students with life threatening food allergies. The basis of our approach is risk minimisation and education.

Aims:

The St Anthony's School Kedron Food Allergy Policy aims to:

- Safely support, within the school environment, students with severe allergies and anaphylaxis.
- Develop and maintain a school action and implementation plan when dealing with students who have critical life-threatening allergies.
- Provide a position for the community on food management, hygiene, safe food handling, parent education, student education, tuckshop and classroom protocols to proactively and reactively support these students.

Prevalence of food allergies

Food allergies affect approximately 1 in 50 children and it is likely that at school children will encounter and may accidentally ingest the one of the many products which causes an allergic reaction. Students with a food allergy may react to tactile (touch) exposure or inhalation exposure. Not every ingestion exposure will result in anaphylaxis but the potential always exists. Whilst peanut allergy is the most likely to cause anaphylaxis and death, eight foods (peanut, tree nut, milk, egg, soy, wheat, fish and shellfish) account for the vast majority of total food allergies.

When the symptoms to the allergic reaction are widespread and systemic, the reaction is termed "anaphylaxis". Anaphylaxis is the most severe and sudden form of allergic reaction and should be treated as a medical emergency.

Symptoms of food allergies

Symptoms and signs of anaphylaxis, usually but not always, occur within the first 20 minutes after exposure but can in some cases be delayed for two hours or more. Symptoms and signs may include one or more of the following:

- Difficulty and/or noisy breathing.
- Swelling of the tongue.
- Swelling or tightness in the throat.
- Difficulty talking or a hoarse voice.
- Wheeze or persistent cough.
- Dizzy/light headed.
- Loss of consciousness and/or collapse
- Pale and floppy (young child)



Guidelines

St Anthony's School and Staff Community Commitment and Prevention Strategies:

To ensure that all children attending our school are covered by our Prevention Strategies throughout the year, the St Anthony's School and Staff Community will:

Inform parents of the Food Allergy Awareness policy.	Include in Parent Handbook, and provide on School Website. Regular reminders (minimum of one per term) in newsletters.
Request if a class has a child with a known anaphylactic history, that parents do not pack any kinds of nuts, any kind of nut paste or peanut butter (including dippers, nutella spread or nutty muesli bars in lunchboxes) NB. This may sometimes include other products if child's anaphylactic reactions are to non-nut products.	Provide letters to parents in classes that contain students who suffer from anaphylaxis at the beginning of each school year (parents of anaphylactic student to provide written permission for this to occur). For severe allergies other than nuts, classmates and parents will be informed of the child's allergy – removal of some or all food items with the food allergen present, will be considered where practicable on a case-by-case basis, after consultation with the parents, teachers and medical practitioner (where appropriate).
Include the Food Allergy Awareness policy in the school Policy and Practise document.	Included in this document.
Encourage all teachers and staff to act as positive role models for children in all aspects of Food Allergy Awareness behaviour.	Include in Staff Handbook and include in Staff In-service Training (including anaphylaxis training and EpiPen training every 12 months).
Seek ongoing support from parents and the school community for the Food Allergy Awareness policy.	Involve P&F review and feedback as well as Food Allergy Awareness Parent Group and encourage regular contact/feedback.
Ensure Relief Teachers/Staff are made aware of the Food Allergy Awareness Policy.	Medical Alert Poster and copy of Anaphylaxis Individual Plan will be contained with the relief staff folder. Identifier will also be within the relief teacher handbook for easy identification of at risk students for relief teachers.
Request for students with a known anaphylactic history, that parents provide a supply of appropriate food items to be provided upon class occasions (eg. Birthdays, etc)	Teachers ensure that students are not supplied with food items brought into the classroom but will arrange for the alternate supply to be accessed from the staffroom freezer.
Ensure that the Tuckshop will not sell any nut products and remain informed about anaphylactic students within the school.	Tuckshop Convenor will oversee the purchase of all products. Homebake will not be supplied to students with known anaphylactic history and the Tuckshop will supply an alternative colour tuckshop bag for these children (parents can request these bags). Tuckshop Induction will cover all aspects of the Food Allergy Awareness Policy. Tuckshop will also display at all times, the Medical Alert Poster with photographs of anaphylactic students
Ensure new families to the school community are made aware of the Food Allergy Awareness Policy	Incorporate into enrolment packages and orientation days/evenings.



<p>Ensure that Anaphylaxis Posters are located in all classrooms and are displayed prominently in other areas of the school</p>	<p>Staff will ensure that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each year Medical Alert Posters and books are updated and displayed in prominent positions (minimum of all classrooms, staff room, first aid room, tuckshop and other pivotal points around the school.) • Individual anaphylaxis plan posters for children with a food allergy will be posted in the first aid room, and the classroom as a minimum. This plan will also be contained within the box of the EpiPen.
<p>Ensure that excursions and other sporting events will cover EpiPen requirements as part of the risk assessment conducted for each event.</p>	<p>Teachers undertaking risk assessment procedures will ensure EpiPens and other prescribed medications (if applicable) are taken within the first aid kit and a copy of the Student Individual Anaphylaxis Plan is contained within the First Aid Kit. A mobile phone is mandatory on excursions and forms part of this risk assessment. EpiPens will be taken out of First Aid box in office by sign in/sign out sheet.</p>
<p>Ensure that incursions and other classroom events will cover EpiPen requirements as part of the risk assessment conducted for each event.</p>	<p>Teachers undertaking risk assessment procedures will ensure all parents are notified via class note of special occasion food being taken into class to decide on appropriate measures to be taken.</p>
<p>Will make parents aware in advance of atypical school occasions and events where changes to exposure to allergy foods are increased (eg. Discos, sporting events at other schools, Easter celebrations, Mission Days, Fundraisers etc)</p>	<p>School will advise by method of newsletter, note or email, in advance of these events so parents can make alternative arrangements or have relevant discussions with class teachers to minimise risk exposure.</p>

Parental Commitment of Families with At Risk Students:

To ensure that all children attending our school are covered by our Prevention Strategies throughout the year, the St Anthony's School Parents of At Risk Students will:

<p>Supply each year the relevant information in writing and medication specific to their child.</p>	<p>Parents will provide the school with:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written notification via Medical Alert Template of their child's condition • An EpiPen (which will be replaced prior to expiry date) • Any other prescribed medications (ie. Anti-histamine with the relevant completed paperwork from a Medical Practitioner) • A colour anaphylaxis plan poster with a current photo of their child in school uniform signed by their Medical Practitioner. • Signed permission to allow school to notify other parents within the school of their child's condition and school lunchbox requests. • Replacing EpiPens and other medications as required – it is a legal requirement that the EpiPen and prescription medication be clearly labelled and not out of date – it must be replaced when it expires or after it has been used.
<p>Will be requested to provide a supply of appropriate alternative food items to be provided upon class occasions (eg. Birthdays, etc)</p>	<p>These will be stored in the staffroom freezer but must be in a clearly labelled container which is freezer- safe.</p>



	the St Anthony's Food Allergy Awareness Policy.
Act as a positive role model by practising Food Allergy Awareness behaviour, including supporting class protocols with allergy-aware foods not being packed in lunchboxes.	Parents are encouraged to support Food Allergy Awareness behaviour and ensure lunchboxes are packed according to class requests if there is a student with a known anaphylactic history.
Teach and encourage children to selfmanage	Educate and remind children of the importance of their food allergy and encourage them to actively manage their condition and relevant behaviours
Support the school's food Allergy Awareness policy.	Parents will actively promote and model positive behaviours for students in line with the St Anthony's Food Allergy Awareness Policy.

Parental Commitment of Families within our School Community:

To ensure that all children attending our school are covered by our Prevention Strategies throughout the year, the St Anthony's School Parents will:

Act as a positive role model by practising Food Allergy Awareness behaviour, including supporting class protocols with allergy-aware foods not being packed in lunchboxes.	Parents are encouraged to support Food Allergy Awareness behaviour and ensure lunchboxes are packed according to class requests if there is a student with a known anaphylactic history.
Support the school's Food Allergy Awareness policy.	Parents will actively promote and model positive behaviours for students in line with

Student Commitment within our School Community:

To ensure that all students attending our school are covered by our Prevention Strategies throughout the year, students at St Anthony's School will:

Be aware of the school's Food Allergy Awareness policy.	This will be communicated to students via school staff members and parents and include a minimum of an annual education program. This will take place via a whole school basis and a classroom basis.
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<p>Take responsibility for their own health and safety by being Food Allergy Aware.</p>	<p>Students will take responsibility for their own actions and undertake Food Allergy Awareness practices at school (where students are age appropriate to do so).</p>
<p>Act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of Food Allergy Awareness behaviour.</p>	<p>Students will model positive Food Allergy Awareness behaviour to their peers and other students by actively participating in Food Allergy Awareness practices.</p>
<p>Participate in and support any Food Allergy Awareness education program.</p>	<p>Students will undertake and assist in Food Allergy Awareness Education throughout the year. This will be via a whole school focus, class directed and self-directed.</p>
<p>Comply with Food Allergy Awareness rules and guidelines by participating in risk minimisation measures.</p>	<p>Students are encouraged to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash hands with soap (supplied in toilets) after eating • If any potentially harmful food is brought to school by mistake children are encouraged to inform the classroom or duty teacher so that risks may be minimised where they are in a class with a child with a known anaphylactic history • Not swapping or sharing food with others • Being aware that any inappropriate behaviour relating to an “at risk” student’s food allergy will be taken seriously and dealt with immediately by the teacher on duty and reported to a member of the Administration Team. <p>Wear their medical identification wristbands at all times – these will be supplied by the school and assist all staff in identifying at risk children.</p>

IN CONCLUSION

At St Anthony’s School Kedron we seek to ensure the safety and well-being of all members of our school community. We believe an effective partnership between home and school will ensure the successful inclusion of students with life-threatening allergies. We are committed to responsible and achievable management practices in reducing foreseeable risks associated with the support of students with anaphylaxis within the school environment.

For more information please see the Queensland Government Department of Education, Training and the Arts document: Severe Allergic Reactions. Interim Anaphylaxis Guidelines for Queensland Schools. (<http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/healthy/docs/anaphylaxis.pdf>)