



# Allergy Awareness Policy

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## Introduction

The Department for Education (DfE) requires schools to promote and develop learning environments that are safe and supportive.

An allergic reaction occurs when the immune system reacts to substances in the environment which are harmless to most people. Allergic reactions can be triggered by insect bites and stings, environmental allergens (e.g. grass, pollen, mould, animal dander), medication and food (noting that a food allergy is different from an intolerance).

Some students and staff at Magill School have severe allergies / anaphylaxis to different allergens including food items, insect bites and stings and environmental conditions. This means that exposure to their allergens may constitute a risk to their health and wellbeing.

Avoidance of specific allergens is critical for the prevention of anaphylaxis and is dependent upon everyone within the Magill school community doing their bit. This can be anything from not sharing food and ensuring hands are washed especially before eating. Whilst it is primarily the responsibility of parents that their child is taught to care for themselves, the school has a role to implement the care plan and reinforce appropriate avoidance and management strategies.

The school acknowledges that due to current food processing practices, it is impractical to eliminate all allergens entirely from an environment where there is food. It is assumed that any product may have traces of nut or other food allergy ingredients unless confirmed otherwise. The emphasis is therefore on raising awareness, adopting reasonable procedures and risk minimisation strategies, encouraging self-responsibility and considering students with severe allergies/anaphylaxis when planning activities.

Bullying by provoking food allergic children with food to which they are allergic is recognised as a risk factor and is addressed by anti-bullying policies.

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Raise awareness of severe allergies (anaphylaxis) within the whole Magill school community.
- Provide a safe learning environment for the whole Magill school community.
- Assist in the provision of support and best practice to students with severe allergies.

## Parents/Caregivers of a child with an anaphylactic allergy

- Must inform the school of their child's diagnosis and provide information on which allergens to avoid as soon as possible after they become aware.

- Must provide a copy of the ASCIA Action Plan or health care plan to include their child's allergens and medication details (including anti-histamine and the type of adrenaline device i.e. EpiPen, Anapen), as well as clear documentation of the first aid response and the treating health professional's name and contact details.
- Be aware that ASCIA Action Plans should be reviewed when a child is reassessed by their treating health professional; if their medical condition changes; each time they obtain a new adrenaline device (approximately every 12 to 18 months).
- Must provide an adrenaline device and/or other prescribed medication as stated on the plan, and ensure each has a pharmacy label to match the plan exactly clearly stating name, dose and administration instructions.
- Medication must be in date, clearly labelled and not expired.
- Must replace their child's adrenaline device and any other medication as needed, before the expiry date or when used.
- Are to encourage self-responsibility.

## Parents/Caregivers

- Are requested NOT to send food products that contain certain ingredients if requested by the class teacher. This will mean that a student(s) in the class may have a severe allergic/anaphylactic reaction to a food product, even just being in close proximity to it.
- Are to be aware that students are not permitted to provide food to share with the class due to potential allergies.

## Students

Will be encouraged to **Be a MATE: MAKE ALLERGY TREATMENT EASIER**  
(Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia - <https://allergyfacts.org.au/be-a-mate/>)

- Always take food allergies seriously.
- Don't share food.
- Wash hands after eating.
- Know what your mates are allergic to.
- Get help straight away if a mate gets sick, even if they don't want you to.

## All Staff Members

- Will be made aware of students who have severe allergies
- Will supervise eating at lunchtime.
- Will encourage students not to share food.
- Will participate in training from a registered organisation in understanding and dealing with severe allergic reactions / anaphylaxis when necessary.
- Will provide information regarding allergens within the classroom for any activities that may involve food such as camps, excursions etc and liaise accordingly with families of children with allergies.
- Will assist in encouraging self-responsibility.

## First Aid

- First aid protocols ensure safe secure storage and immediate access to a child's Epi-pen and other first aid equipment.
- First aid protocols encourage self-management while acknowledging that staff are responsible for managing first aid emergencies.
- A 'general use' adrenaline device is available within the school in the event of an anaphylactic reaction for any student, whether or not they have a known allergen.
- An ambulance is to be called whenever an adrenaline device is administered.

## Promotion

This policy will be promoted by: School newsletter, School website, acquaintance nights, class apps.

## Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

## References

Health Support Planning: Anaphylaxis and severe allergies in education and care, File number DE20/10114 Version 1.5, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Be a Mate – Making Allergy Treatment Easier. Allergy and Anaphylaxis Australia