

BEECHWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL



No. 1560

Believe - Persist - Succeed

Beechworth Primary School

Nut and Food Allergy Awareness Policy

Purpose

The aim of this policy is:

- To provide, as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of illness, allergic reaction or anaphylactic (severe allergic) reactions to food substances can participate equally in all aspects of schooling,
- To raise awareness about nut and food allergies,
- To engage with parents/carers of students at risk of a reaction to nuts or a food substance in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies and the management strategies for the student according to their child's personal needs,
- To ensure that each staff member has adequate knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the school's policy and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction,
- To comply with Ministerial Order No: 706 and associated guidelines,
- To follow, in the event of a reaction, the school's first aid and emergency management response procedures and the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan.

Policy

Risk Minimisation

Beechworth Primary School is committed to implementing the following strategies to minimise risk to students known and unknown to have nut and/or food allergies:

- The school will send out an information sheet to the class parent community on severe allergy and the risk of anaphylaxis for a student in a class.
- Alert parents to strategies that the school has in place and the need for their child to not share food and to wash hands after eating.

Parents:

- All parents will be informed of this policy at the commencement of each new school year and at enrolment.
- On enrolment, or when an issue arises, parents/carers are required to advise the school in writing and discuss the condition with the School First Aid Officer and classroom teacher. - refer to Anaphylaxis policy for severe/anaphylactic cases.

Students:

- Are requested not to share food
- Are encouraged to wash hands before and after eating
- Who bring foods containing nuts, nut products, or potential known food allergen substances are required to eat that food away from students with intolerances/allergic reactions

Staff:

- Will know the identities of children with food allergies and those at risk of anaphylaxis
- Will be aware of all anaphylaxis management plans at the school
- Will attend regular anaphylaxis training sessions.
- Will supervise students during eating times and will be vigilant in regards to this policy.
- **Food rewards** should be discouraged and non-food rewards encouraged

Special Events:

- Notices may need to be sent to parent community discouraging specific food products (e.g. nuts) where appropriate.
- Where food is for sale, a list of ingredients should be available for each food.

Class parties or birthday celebrations:

- Discuss these activities with the parents or guardians of the child with allergy well in advance.
- Suggest that a notice is sent home to all parents prior to the event, discouraging specific food products (e.g. nuts) where appropriate.
- Ideally (where appropriate) students with intolerances/allergies should bring their own food. These children can participate in spontaneous birthday celebrations by parents supplying 'treat box' or safe cupcakes stored in the freezer in a labelled sealed container.

Cooking/food technology:

- Teachers will engage parents or guardians and older children in discussions prior to cooking sessions and activities that use food.

Camps and Excursions:

- Check if excursion includes a food related activity, if so discuss with the parent or guardian.
- Discussions by school staff and parents or guardians with the operators of the camp facility should be undertaken well in advance of camp.

Promotion:

This policy will be promoted by:

- Information in the school newsletter
- New families to the school community being informed via information in their enrolment package
- Staff being informed and provided with briefings and training
- Students being informed via teachers, and signs.

Further Information and Resources

- Anaphylaxis Policy
- Camps and Excursions Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Safe Environments Policy
- Healthy Eating and Oral Health Policy

Review Cycle

Ratified by School Council: 24 July 2019

Review: August 2021.