



Nut Minimalisation Policy

Preamble

Medical advice in consultation with the Association of Independent Schools, School Council and Staff, saw the introduction of a Nut Minimalisation School Policy in 2008.

Waikerie Lutheran Primary School follows the majority of schools in Australia in improving student safety through the establishment of a "Nut Free" eating environment.

At any given time a number of students in our school may have a severe peanut/nut allergy. These students cannot be exposed to nuts in ANY form, as this will trigger an anaphylactic reaction. Anaphylaxis requires an immediate injection of adrenalin, ambulance attendance and hospitalisation.

Given the life threatening nature of anaphylaxis, the elimination of peanut/nuts and food containing nuts within the school, is clearly the appropriate response.

Action

For some children the severity of such allergies means that if someone in our school eats peanuts and then touches school furniture, resources or playground equipment, the item is then contaminated with enough peanut residue to trigger a severe reaction. Therefore we also ask that children, who have any nut based products for breakfast on school days, wash their hands thoroughly and clean their teeth before coming to school.

No student is to bring the following foods to school:

- ❖ Peanut butter/oil (sandwiches, dips or crackers)
- ❖ Nutella (sandwiches or dips)
- ❖ Biscuits and cakes with nuts in them
- ❖ Muesli bars with nuts
- ❖ Chocolate containing nuts e.g. Snickers
- ❖ Dried fruit & nut mixes

This does not include products that contain the warning "may contain traces of nuts")

Our paramount concern is for the safety and well being for all children in our care. To keep these students safe and well at school, all must comply with this policy. Teachers will do everything they can to assist by reinforcing the policy through class discussions.

Communication

Regular reminders will be placed in the school newsletter so that new parents and children to our school will be aware of this issue. All prospective families will be made aware of the policy at the enrolment interview by the school.

Providing support to students at risk of anaphylaxis

Responsibilities of parents of a child who is allergic to nuts:

- Inform the Principal of the school of the health needs of the child upon enrolment and when the health needs of the child change
- When requested by the Principal, negotiate an individual health care plan for school support of the student's with the Principal and staff

Provide documentation from a Registered Medical Practitioner to the school giving details of the following:

- Documentation of the allergic triggers
- Documentation of the first aid response including any prescribed medication
- Identification and contact details of the doctor
- Provide clear identification of the child (photo)
- Provide written requests for the school to administer prescribed medications
- Provide the equipment and consumables for carrying out health care support procedures as specified in the student's individual health care plan, including where relevant, the appropriate EpiPen
- Replace the EpiPen when it expires or after it has been used

Responsibilities of all school parents

- Ensure that all products sent to school with their child are nut free
- Ensure their child washes their hands if they have eaten any nut based foods prior to school
- Encourage their children to avoid sharing food at school

Responsibilities of the principal or his representative:

- Seek information from the parent about allergies as part of health information at enrolment or as part of regular health updates
- Where the information from the parent indicates that their child has allergies, provide a copy of your child's health plan from your Medical Practitioner
- If the form indicates the student has an allergy and has either been hospitalised or prescribed an EpiPen or both, a meeting should be organised with the parent
- Meet with the parent and discuss the "Emergency Response Plan"
- Coordinate for all staff to be trained in the usage of an EpiPen
- Routinely communicate to the school community the school's stance on a nut free environment via school newsletters, staff memos, class newsletters, and signage around the school
- Conduct an assessment of potential exposure to allergens in the student's routine and of issues to be addressed in implementing an emergency response plan
- Ensure that the Canteen staff/volunteers are vigilant in terms of scanning all product packaging for nut products
- Ensure that emergency response plans are displayed in the Office
- Develop an individual health care plan in consultation with relevant staff, the parent and student to incorporate:
 - Information to be displayed with the emergency response plan
- Medical information provided by the child's medical practitioner
- Emergency contacts
- Review the Health care plan annually at the beginning of the year, particularly informing and up skilling the staff on the administration of the EpiPen in the case of an anaphylactic reaction

Responsibilities of the teachers:

- Monitor the food being eaten by the children in their class
- To be vigilant in regard to food brought to class for class parties or cooking lessons
- Send any child who has a nut based product for recess or lunch to the front office and ensure that they wash their hands before returning to class
- Ensure there is no food sharing at recess or lunch
- Attend any training session regarding the recognition of symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction and the administration of an EpiPen provided by the school.