Holy Name Primary School

Nut Aware Policy

Rationale
We have children attending Holy Name Primary School who suffer from an anaphylactic reaction to peanuts/tree nuts. These reactions can be serious and even life threatening.
The symptoms of anaphylactic shock may include hives, itching, swelling, watery eyes, runny nose, vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach cramps, coughing, wheezing, throat tightness/closing, difficulty swallowing, difficulty breathing, dizziness, fainting, loss of consciousness or a change of skin colour. The most dangerous symptoms are breathing difficulties or a drop in blood pressure, which can be potentially fatal.
At the present time we do have students who require an EPIPEN (automatic injector device to administer adrenalin). As caregivers we need to take all precautions necessary to minimize risk of a life threatening anaphylaxis. As a community we can work together to minimize risks associated with being exposed to these foods that are a trigger to such attacks.

What Does this Mean:-

For our school?
- Our school tuckshop will not have for sale food items that contain nuts. This does not apply to foods labelled “may contain traces of nuts”.
- No food is allowed to be shared between children at lunch time.
- Education for students on Food Allergies and Healthy Foods is incorporated into the school curriculum.
- We ask parents to ensure that birthday cakes are peanut and nut free.
- We have staff members who have been trained in the use EPIPENs during an anaphylactic reaction.

For parents?
- We recommend parents not to send peanut butter on sandwiches, or Nutella (to minimize the risk from person to person contact).
- Emphasize the importance of hygiene when eating food at home and at school – washing hands.

While we can never entirely enforce or regulate what comes from home in each child’s lunch box nor where foods contain traces of nut oil, we hope people will assist in working toward minimizing the risks and looking at alternatives from nut products. Thank you for your cooperation.

Date of Issue 25/11/2014

Dr Richard Landers
Holy Name Primary School
Chairperson

Date of Review

Mrs Kathy Bliss
Holy Name Primary School
Principal

Note: Updated October 2014 (To be reviewed in 2017)