



## **Nut Allergy Awareness Policy**

Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a systemic allergic reaction that can be fatal within minutes: either through swelling that shuts off airways or through a dramatic drop in blood pressure caused by eating or coming in contact with foods containing nuts. While there are other triggers the most common is to tree nuts (including peanuts, almonds, pistachio).

The school acknowledges that due to food processing practices it is impractical to eliminate nuts or nut products entirely from an environment where there is food.

Our intention is to be a Nut Aware school.

### **Purpose:**

- To provide a safe environment for all members of the Magill School community.
- To raise the awareness of all members of the community regarding severe allergies.

### **Management:**

- Parents and caregivers are requested NOT to send food to school that contains nuts. This includes peanut paste, nutella, all nuts and cooking oil containing peanut oil, as well as foods containing nuts such as pesto, and some chocolate. This applies to items with nuts as a listed ingredient, but does not apply to those foods labelled 'may contain traces of nuts'. This is especially important in the R-2 classes as young children are less able to manage their allergy.
- No nut products to be included in food on special days eg cakes, cooking activities, camps.
- Staff supervising eating at lunchtime.
- Students are encouraged not to share food.
- Students being encouraged to wash hands after eating.
- Staff training in understanding and dealing with Anaphylaxis( severe allergic reactions) including the use of Epi-pens.
- School canteen complying with the Nut allergy Awareness Policy.
- Students bringing food containing nuts or nut products being asked to eat that food away from other students and to wash hands before and after eating.
- Parents and caregivers informed through the newsletter stressing that it is about a severe food allergy not intolerance or a choice.
- Policy included in enrolment form information and on the website.
- Staff will be aware of students with known nut allergies. These students will have a Health Care Plan provided by a medical practitioner and class parents particularly alerted.

For more information on food allergy call 1300728000 or visit

[www.allergy.org.au](http://www.allergy.org.au) and for Australian food labelling visit [www.foodstandards.gov.au](http://www.foodstandards.gov.au)

Policy ratified by staff: Term 4 2010

Endorsed by Governing Council: term 4 2010 reviewed term 4 2015

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