



WATERVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL



NUT AWARENESS POLICY- SCHOOL

Watervale Primary School is a NUT AWARE SCHOOL*

RATIONALE:

A severe allergy to nuts and sesame can have a life threatening reaction. Anaphylactic shock can occur within seconds of exposure to a nut or sesame allergen. This policy contains more information on Anaphylactic shock and the consequences of this.

Anaphylactic shock can occur if:

- Contact is made with a person who has handled or eaten nuts or nut products.
- Contact is made with an object such as a toy or door handle that has traces of nuts on it.
- The person with the allergy inhales the air close to nuts or nut products containing traces of nuts.

CONTEXT:

The Department of Education requires schools to promote and construct learning environments that are safe and supportive. Students and staff may have Anaphylaxis, the severest form of allergic reaction and nuts or nut products may be a trigger. This means that exposure at school may constitute a risk to their health and well-being. It is not possible to guarantee that the environment will be completely free of potential hazards. However, compliance to reasonable guidelines will minimize the potential risks.

PURPOSE:

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

MANAGEMENT:

Stage 1 (No identified student in the school)

- Information placed in newsletter regularly about nut allergies.
- Enrolling parents asked for information about possible allergies.

Stage 2 (on enrolment of an identified student the school will move to stage 2)

THE NUT AWARE POLICY WILL BE MANAGED BY:

- Parents providing a Health Care Plan from the allergic child's doctor with additional advice from parents. The school's management will be congruent with the allergic child's Health Care Plan from their doctor regarding the severity of reaction.
- Parents, caregivers and community members being requested NOT to send food to school that contain any nuts (especially peanuts). This includes peanut paste, Nutella, nougat, all nuts and cooking oil containing peanut oil, as well as foods containing nuts.
- Parents are requested NOT to send empty containers to school, for classroom use, if those containers once had a substance that included nuts or traces of nuts

- Staff supervising eating at lunch time.
- Students being encouraged NOT to share food.
- Students being encouraged to wash hands after eating.
- Staff participating in First Aid Training, understanding and dealing with Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions) as the need arises.
- Students washing hands and face before leaving for school in the case where they have eaten nut products for breakfast.
- Staff complying with the Nut Awareness policy when cooking with students at school.

PROMOTION:

The policy will be promoted by:

- Parents and caregivers being informed via the newsletter and Facebook page.
- New families to the school community being informed via the Enrolment Information Package.
- Governing Council being informed and has given approval and support.
- Staff being informed and provided with training opportunities.
- Students being informed via teachers, signs, Facebook page and the newsletter.
- Inform visiting schools of our policy and ask them to comply.

* This school acknowledges that due to food processing practices it is impractical to eliminate nuts and nut products entirely from an environment where there is food. The emphasis is therefore on raising awareness and adopting the reasonable procedures termed as 'Nut and Sesame Awareness'.