

# Assisi Catholic College

## Severe Allergy and Associated Harm Minimisation Policy

### Purpose

To ensure that students with severe allergies, especially those susceptible to anaphylactic reactions, are provided with appropriate conditions and education, to assist them to be safe within the school and wider communities.

### Management

Assisi is committed to providing a safe environment for all students, which minimises the risk of harm. In attempting to address potential harm resulting from severe allergies, especially anaphylactic reaction to certain products, the following practices will be in place at Assisi Catholic College:

- Thorough communication will occur between home and school to ensure that all relevant information in this area is shared.
- Emphasis will be placed on the individual child and the child's parents / caregivers to ensure that the child at risk is fully aware of safe practices. This will be the most effective long term approach to ensure children learn best how to live with their allergy and how to prevent placing themselves in potentially harmful situations.
- All students at Assisi will be made aware of the warning signs of anaphylaxis and will be instructed as to the most appropriate course of action if they or a friend exhibits the signs of anaphylactic reaction.
- Students will not share food. Students will eat only what they have brought from home or purchased from the Tuckshop / La Verna.
- Appropriate staff will have current first aid qualifications as required by BCE policy.
- All staff will have current CPR qualifications as required by College policy.
- Staff will be instructed in the correct process for the administering of Epi-pen / Anipen.
- Given the range of triggers for anaphylaxis, it is impossible to ban all triggers from school. In light of the frequency of cases of nuts as an anaphylactic trigger, additional consideration will be given and the consequences of this are:
  - That there is no one single approach that is appropriate for all students from Prep to Year 12. The focus of risk minimisation will move from protection through parental assistance in nut exclusion in younger years through to the focus more clearly on education and decision making in the older years. At all stages it will be an expectation that parents will work with their children to ensure they are aware of correct choices involving nuts. Additionally, at all stages, students will be taught about correct food choices and education of allergic reaction. Specifically the focus for harm minimisation from nuts will be:
    - ~ Early Years (Prep to Year 3)
      - ~ Parental support will be requested from all parents of Prep to Year Three students, to ensure that nuts and nut products are not sent to school. Obviously the range of products, which may contain traces of nuts, is a very extensive one so the major focus will be the exclusion of 'Nut Specific' products such as nuts themselves, peanut butter and nut based bars.
      - ~ All students will be reminded of simple hygiene rules, which may assist in the prevention of incidental sharing of potentially harmful substances

such as nuts. This will include simple strategies such as student washing hands prior to eating.

~ Junior Years

- The education and awareness strategies for Early Years will continue in Junior Years to ensure information remains current for students.
- Less focus will be placed on all parents and all children and greater emphasis will be placed on the individual child and parents. In addition to this the parent and the individual class teacher will continue to stay in contact on regular basis and discussion with students will take place more at a class level than a year or precinct level.

~ Middle and Senior Years (Years 7 – 12)

- Due to the close proximity and shared spaces for students in these phases of learning, a single approach will be required for break times. The focus for these students will be choices made by individuals after ongoing education of correct food choices and safe practices. The focus will also be on all students to recognise the early signs of anaphylactic reaction and to take steps quickly to address this as early as possible.
- Neither the Early and Junior Years Tuck-shop nor the Middle and Senior Years Bistro will sell 'Nut Specific' products and where possible will reduce other products containing nuts.

This document is written within a Preparatory to Year 12 college environment and as a result, attempts to reflect the various stages of development and need for supervision. It also attempts to recognise our place as a P – 12 college within the wider community.