



MALLUSK INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL

ALLERGIES POLICY

This policy is concerned with a whole school approach to the health care and management of those members of the school community suffering from specific allergies.

Mallusk Integrated Primary School is aware that children who attend may suffer from food, bee/ wasp sting, animal or nut allergies and we believe that all allergies should be taken seriously and dealt with in a professional and appropriate way. The school's position is not to guarantee a completely allergen free environment, rather to minimise the risk of exposure, encourage responsibility, and plan for effective response to possible emergencies. We are committed to no food and drink sharing. The school has a duty to obtain information about any dietary requirements/allergy. As such parents are asked to provide details of allergies in the child's Data Collection Form, which is submitted before starting school.

AIM

The aim of this policy is to minimize the risk of any child suffering allergy-induced anaphylaxis whilst at school. An allergic reaction to nuts is the most common high risk allergy, and as such demands more rigorous controls throughout this policy. The underlying principles of this policy include:

- The establishment of effective risk management practices to minimise the student, staff, parent and visitor exposure to known trigger foods and insects.
- Staff training and education to ensure effective emergency response to any allergic reaction situation.

This policy applies to all members of the school community:

- School Staff
- Parents / Carers
- Volunteers & visitors
- Pupils

DEFINITIONS

Allergy - A condition in which the body has an exaggerated response to a substance (e.g. food and drug) also known as hypersensitivity.

Allergen - A normally harmless substance that triggers an allergic reaction in the immune system of a susceptible person.

Anaphylaxis - Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a sudden, severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction to food, stings, bites, or medicines.

Auto Injector - Syringe style device containing the drug Adrenalin, which is ready for immediate inter-muscular administration. Brand names may be Jext, Auto injector.

Minimized Risk Environment- An environment where risk management practices (e.g. Risk assessment forms) have minimised the risk of (allergen) exposure.

Health Care Plan- A detailed document outlining an individual student's condition treatment, and action plan for location of Auto injector.

PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ALLERGY MANAGEMENT

GENERAL

- The involvement of parents and staff in establishing individual Health Care Plans.
- The establishment and maintenance of practices for effectively communicating a child's healthcare plans to all relevant staff.
- Staff training in anaphylaxis management, including awareness of triggers and first aid procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency.
- Age appropriate education of the children with severe food allergies.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

- The school will seek updated information via medical form at the commencement of each calendar year.
- Any change in a child's medical condition during the year must be reported to the school.
- For children with an allergic condition, the school requires parents / carers to provide written advice from a doctor, which explains the condition, defines the allergy triggers and any required medication.
- The Principal will ensure that a Health Care Plan is established and updated for each child with a known allergy.
- Teachers, classroom assistants and key staff are required to review and familiarise themselves with the medical information.
- Action Plans with a recent photograph for any students with allergies will be posted in relevant rooms with parental permission.
- Where children with known allergies are participating in school trips, the risk assessments must include this information.
- The wearing of a medic-alert bracelet is allowed by the School.

MEDICAL INFORMATION WHERE AUTO INJECTORS ARE REQUIRED IN THE HEALTH CARE PLAN

- Parents/ guardians are responsible for the provision and timely replacement of the Auto injectors.
- The Auto injectors are located securely in relevant locations approved by the Principal.

PARENTS' ROLE

Parents are responsible for providing, in writing, on-going accurate and current medical information to the school including:

- The allergen (the substance the child is allergic to)
- The nature of the allergic reaction (from rash, breathing problems to anaphylactic shock).
- What to do in case of allergic reaction, including any medication to be used and how it is to be used.
- Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from getting into contact with the allergen.
- If a child has an allergy requiring an Auto injector, or the risk assessment deems it necessary, a Health Care Plan must be provided.
- It is the responsibility of the Parent to provide the school with up to date medication / equipment clearly labelled in a suitable container.
- In the case of life saving medication like Auto injectors the child will not be allowed to attend without it.
- Parents are also required to provide up to date emergency contact information.
- Snacks and lunches brought into school are provided by each child's Parent.
- It is their responsibility to ensure that the contents are safe for the child to consume.
- Parents should liaise with Staff about appropriateness of snacks and any food related activities (e.g. cooking)

STAFF'S ROLE

Staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with the policy and must adhere to health & safety regulations regarding food and drink. All staff should know the procedures at snack and lunch time to ensure the safety of children with allergies. *It must be noted, however, that staff cannot guarantee that foods will not contain traces of nuts.* Staff should liaise with parents about snacks and any food-related activities.

- If a child's Data Collection Form states that they have an allergy then a Health Care Plan is needed. It must be in place before the child starts attending sessions. The child's allergy must be identified on relevant risk assessments.
- Upon determining that a child attending school has a severe allergy, a team meeting will be set up as soon as possible where all staff concerned, including the catering contractor, attend to update knowledge and awareness of child's needs.
- All staff who come into contact with the child will be made aware of what treatment/medication is required and where any medication is stored, by the Principal.
- All staff are to promote hand washing before and after eating.
- Snacks and packed lunches are monitored by staff and are nut free and free of other allergens depending on the children attending.
- All tables are cleaned with an approved solution.
- Children are not permitted to share food.
- As part of staff training, Auto Injector use and storage has been discussed.
- Emergency medication should be easily accessible, especially at times of high risk.

ACTIONS IN THE EVENT OF A CHILD SUFFERING AN ALLERGIC REACTION

- If a protocol (Health Care Action Plan) is in place for the child this will be followed. If medication is available it will be administered as per training.
- Staff will delegate someone to contact the child's parent/ carer immediately.
- If a child becomes distressed or symptoms become more serious telephone 999.
- Staff will keep calm, make the child feel comfortable and give the child space.
- If parents have not arrived by the time ambulance arrives, a member of staff will accompany the child to hospital.

ROLE OF OTHER PARENTS

The school requests that:

- Snacks and lunches brought to the school by other parents be nut free at all times.
- Food containing other allergens (e.g. egg) are not brought into school, where any child has an allergy to this substance.

The school will ensure that parents are regularly reminded of this and will monitor the contents of lunchboxes and snacks.

Date: February 2023

Review Date: Annual