

St. Kevin's N.S. Anaphylaxis Policy

Introductory Statement and Rationale

(a) Introductory Statement

This policy was developed in the 2010/2011 school year in response to the increasing number of pupils who were presenting with severe allergies. It will be reviewed and updated as necessary and will be signed and dated by the Chairperson of the Board of Management to reflect this.

(b) Rationale

The purpose of this policy is:

- To provide a safe environment in which allergies can be avoided.
- To provide staff with information to take appropriate and immediate action when a reaction occurs.
- To minimise the exposure of students at risk to known allergens.

Definition

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction that occurs when a person is exposed to an allergen (insect bite/food). Anaphylaxis is potentially life threatening and requires an emergency response.

Signs and Symptoms of Anaphylaxis

- Generalised flushing of the skin anywhere on the body
- Nettle rash(hives) anywhere on the body
- Difficulty in swallowing or speaking
- Swelling of throat and mouth
- Alterations in heart rate
- Abdominal Pain, nausea and vomiting
- Sudden Weakness due to a drop in blood pressure
- Collapse and unconsciousness

Pen Storage

- One pen will be stored on the bottom shelf on the left hand side in the secretary's office and a second pen will be stored on a custom built shelf inside the classroom next to the door. The pens will be clearly labelled with the child's name etc.

Emergency Plan if incident occurs IN the classroom

- Adult in charge stays with the child
- Adult administers the classroom Anapen (and other medication as per medical specialist recommendation)
- Adult sends another adult or possibly pupils to the office to dial Emergency Services 999 or 112 and to obtain the second Anapen which is located in the bottom shelf of the press on the left had side in the secretary's office.
- Contact Parents
- Ensure that the child's airway is clear
- Ensure all items are replaced in the kit and taken to the hospital

Emergency Plan if incident occurs OUTSIDE the classroom

- Adult in charge stays with the child, while another adult or possibly pupils obtain the closest Anapen.(Either from the classroom or the office).
- Adult administers the Anapen (and other medication as per medical specialist recommendation)
- Adult in charge ensures emergency services are notified and that the second pen is obtained.
- Contact Parents
- Stay with child
- Ensure that the child's airway is clear
- Ensure all items are replaced in the kit and taken to the hospital

If the unlikely event that the office is unattended, pupils should go immediately to the nearest infant teacher who will dial the Emergency Services and ensure the second pen is sent to the classroom

Role of Parents (of children with severe allergies)

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- Parents are responsible for notifying the school that their child is at risk (enrolment or diagnosis). A letter from the relevant medical specialist, detailing the nature of the allergy and the appropriate intervention, should be submitted for inclusion on the child's file. The school will only administer medication as per letter from medical specialist.
- Food allergy students should only eat foods provided by parents from home.
- New staff members to be informed by Principal and parent of allergic student.
- Parents are responsible for providing the school with the correct Anapen (e.g. Anapen Junior) with the appropriate dosage.
- Parents are responsible for advising the school of any changes in the nature of the allergy and of any changes in the prescribed medication dosage.
- Parents are responsible for ensuring that Anapens are replaced in advance of their expiry date.

Role of Staff

The school will endeavour to minimise the exposure of children at risk of an allergic reaction to known allergens.

- Classrooms and playgrounds which are used by children who are at risk of an allergic reaction will be designated allergen free areas (e.g. nut free classrooms if the child has a nut allergy). Regular reminders of our policy in this regard will be sent to the general parent body.
- Anapens will be stored as directed by the accompanying instructions.
- The Principal and staff will consult with the parents to establish and review the management of the allergy in the school context. The Emergency Response Plan will also be discussed on an annual basis.
- Staff will be informed on the plan, procedures and emergency response plan.
- Parents are responsible for delivering briefing to teachers and relevant ancillary staff in respect of their own child.
- Foods that contain nuts or may contain traces of nuts may be consumed at school by staff or visitors, but **only in the staff room**. Adults who have consumed such products must ensure that they **wash their hands before being in the company of students**.
- Anapens are stored in the Secretary's office and are readily accessible.
- The two Anapens/Epipens are to be brought on all school excursions.
- If the class teacher is absent and the child is moving to another class, it is the responsibility of the SNA to ensure that the required medicine, food, drink and equipment are transferred to this class.

Role of wider school community

Parents/Guardians and pupils should support the procedures that have been put in place to a) minimise exposure to allergens b) and promote awareness of severe reactions to allergens and the appropriate emergency response. As we now have children in all yards that have a severe allergy to nuts, we will be a 'nut free' school.

Conclusion

This policy promotes non-contact with the allergens. It provides a plan to identify symptoms and an emergency action plan for all staff to ensure the well-being of identified students.