

ALLERGIES AND NUT AWARENESS POLICY



Context:

- DECS requires schools to promote and construct learning environments that are safe and supportive.
- Students and staff may have anaphylactic (severe allergic) conditions, that include nut allergies. This means that exposure at school may constitute a risk to their health and wellbeing.
- It is not possible to guarantee that the environment will be completely free of potential hazards. However, compliance to reasonable guidelines will minimise the potential risks.
- Initially this policy is written with 'Nut Awareness' and sesame seeds in mind and will be updated to include other potential medical hazards involving allergies.

Purpose:

- To provide a safe learning environment for all members of the Port Broughton Area School community.
- To raise the awareness of anaphylactic conditions for all members of the school community.

Management:

Where a parent of a child with a allergy to nuts or nut products has alerted the school to this fact (backed by medical evidence / documentation), the school will manage the situation in the following way:

Parents:

- are requested NOT to send food to school that contain nuts, especially peanuts. This includes products such as peanut paste, 'Nutella', most nuts, peanut cooking oil and other foods that may contain nuts or sesame seed buns.
- will be informed of this policy at the commencement of each new school year and at enrolment.

Students:

- are to wash hands after eating.
- who bring food containing nuts, or nut products, are required to eat that food away from other students and to wash their hands before going to play.
- Students being encouraged NOT to share food.

Staff:

- are requested NOT to bring food to school that contain nuts, especially peanuts. This includes products such as peanut paste, 'Nutella', most nuts, peanut cooking oil and other foods that may contain nuts or sesame seed buns.
- will be made aware of students who have anaphylactic responses, including nut allergy.
- will supervise students during lunch eating time and will be vigilant in regard to this policy.
- will participate in training from St. John or Red Cross biennially to understand procedures related to Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions) as the need arises.
- will wash hands after eating/preparing food
- School canteen will comply with the Nut Awareness Policy

Promotion:

The policy will be promoted by:

- Information via the school newsletter.
- New families to the school community being informed via information in their enrolment package.
- Governing Council being informed and giving approval and support to this policy.
- Staff being informed and provided with training opportunities.
- TRT's will be informed when working in the school
- Students being informed via teachers, signs and through the newsletter.

Review

This policy will be reviewed by staff and Governing Council every two years, beginning 2013.

The school acknowledges that due to current 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 Awareness'.