**Rationale:**

Anaphylaxis is an acute allergic reaction to certain food items and insect stings. The condition develops in approximately 1-2% of the population. The most common allergens are nuts, eggs, cow’s milk and bee or other insect stings, and some medications.

**Aims:**

To provide a safe and healthy school environment that takes into consideration the needs of all students, including those who may suffer from anaphylaxis.

**Implementation:**

* Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening condition.
* Signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis include hives/rash, tingling in or around the mouth, abdominal pain, vomiting or diarrhoea, facial swelling, cough or wheeze, difficulty breathing or swallowing, loss of consciousness or collapse, or cessation of breathing.
* Anaphylaxis is best prevented by knowing and avoiding the allergens.
* Our school will manage anaphylaxis by:-
* providing professional development for all staff
* identifying susceptible students and knowing their allergens
* informing the community about anaphylaxis via the newsletter
* not allowing food sharing, and restricting food to that approved by parents
* keeping the lawns well mown, ensuring children always wear shoes, and not allowing drink cans at school.
* requiring parents to provide an emergency management plan developed by a health professional and an Epipen if necessary, both of which will be maintained in the first aid room for reference as required
* ensuring key staff are provided with professional development on the response to anaphylaxis and the proper use of an Epipen.
* Ensuring emergency management plans are taken on camp.
* Ensuring staff on camps are informed of students with anaphylaxis.
* The school won’t ban certain types of foods (eg: nuts) as it is not practicable to do so, and is not a strategy recommended by the Royal Children’s Hospital. However, the school will request that parents do not send those items to school if at all possible; that the canteen eliminate or reduce the likelihood of such allergens, and the school will reinforce the rules about not sharing and not eating foods provided from home.

**Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Last Reviewed February 2023.

**Ratified at School Council** N/A