



# Doreen Primary School

## ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

### 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 as per DEECD guidelines
  - 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 or Anapen if necessary, both of which will be maintained in the classroom, first aid room, and on excursion or camp for reference or use as required

- the school will have copies of all plans available in first aid and Yard duty bags
  - the school will own generic EpiPens and have them available at all times
  - ensuring staff are provided with regular professional development on the identification and response to anaphylaxis and the proper use of an EpiPen as well as an Anapen.
  - ensuring all staff are trained First-aiders, with Level 2 the minimum expectation.
  - Communicating any events that occur around a student identified with an anaphylaxis issue to staff and parents of that student.
  - Student privacy is considered, but their personal safety and welfare is paramount.
- 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 Department of Education or the Royal Children's Hospital. The school will reinforce the rules about not sharing foods, no matter what the source.
  - For birthday celebrations, school parties etc, appropriate foods ONLY will be supplied, or a safe alternative for children who are in danger of having a reaction.

**Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed annually.