



RAVENSWOOD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS POLICY

Policy Subject: Allergy Awareness

Contact Officer	Health Care Unit Nurse
------------------------	------------------------

The Hazard – Allergies	<p>Allergies occur when the immune system reacts to substances (allergens) in the environment, which are usually harmless. Examples include proteins, pollens, dust mites and insect venoms.</p> <p>Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. For details on how we manage anaphylaxis at Ravenswood refer to our Anaphylaxis Policy and Procedure.</p>
The Policy	<p>Ravenswood is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all our students and in particular to minimise the risk of allergen exposure. It is our policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide, as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of allergies can participate equally in all aspects of the student's schooling; • To raise awareness about allergies and the School's allergy management and the Anaphylaxis Policy and Procedure within the School community; • To engage with parents/carers of each student at risk of allergies when necessary to assess risks and developing risk minimisation strategies for the student; and • To ensure that staff have knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the School's guidelines and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction. <p>Identification of Students at Risk</p> <p>Parents/carers are requested to notify the School of all medical conditions including allergies.</p> <p>Students who are identified as suffering from severe allergies that may cause anaphylactic shock are managed through our Anaphylaxis Policy.</p> <p>Being Allergy Aware</p> <p>Given the number of foods to which a student may be allergic to, it is not possible to remove all allergens.</p> <p>It is better for the Ravenswood community to become aware of the risks associated with allergies and for the School to implement practical, age appropriate strategies to minimise exposure to known allergens.</p> <p>At Ravenswood we do not promote that we either 'ban nuts' or are 'nut-free'. Promoting a school as 'nut-free' is not recommended for the following reasons:</p>



RAVENSWOOD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS POLICY

Policy Subject: Allergy Awareness

- It is impractical to implement and enforce;
- There is no evidence of effectiveness;
- It does not encourage the development of strategies for avoidance in the wider School community; and
- It may encourage complacency about risk minimisation strategies (for teachers, students and parents/carers) if a food is banned.

We consider that being 'allergy aware' is a more appropriate term.

Whilst we do not claim to be 'nut-free', minimising exposure to particular foods such as peanuts and tree nuts can reduce the level of risk. This can include removing nut spreads and products containing nuts from the School canteen, but does not include removing products that 'may contain traces' of peanuts or tree nuts.

We may also choose to request that parents/carers of classmates of a young student (K-6) do not include nut spreads in sandwiches or products containing nuts in their lunch box.

Raising Peer Awareness

Peer support and understanding is important for the student at risk of allergies (in particular anaphylaxis).

Staff raise awareness through fact sheets or posters displayed in various locations throughout the school and from time to time teachers will discuss the topic with students in class, highlighting a few simple key messages:

- Always take food allergies seriously – severe allergies are no joke;
- Don't share your food with friends who have food allergies or pressure them to eat food that they are allergic to;
- Discussion about common symptoms;
- Wash your hands before and after eating;
- Know what your friends are allergic to;
- If a schoolmate becomes sick, get help immediately; and
- Be respectful of a schoolmate's medical kit.

Date Approved	20 March 2019
Approval Authority	Principal
Date of Commencement	20 March 2019
Amendment Dates	
Date for Next Review	15 January 2020