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. It can be life threatening and research indicates it is becoming more prevalent.

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 reaction to various foods or insect stings.
- 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 training at least every 2 years for all staff on anaphylaxis management organised through St John’s Ambulance, and briefings twice yearly on anaphylaxis including the administering of an adrenaline auto-injector such as an EpiPen or an Anapen.
- informing the community about anaphylaxis via the newsletter
- informing students about allergies, including anaphylaxis causes and first aid, as part of the prep-6 curriculum.
- not allowing food sharing across the school. If a particular food, such as nuts, causes acute allergic reaction, that particular food will be banned from that classroom.
- keeping the lawns well mown, ensuring children always wear shoes, and not allowing drink cans at school.
- identifying susceptible students and knowing their allergens, as identified by medical records provided by parents.
- All children known to having acute allergic reactions are clearly identified in our first aid room. All teachers on yard duty have access to this information via identification cards in their ‘bumbags’.
- requiring parents to provide an ASCIA emergency management plan developed by a health professional and an auto-injector if necessary, both of which will be maintained in the first aid room for reference as required. First aid staff will contact parents if the Use-By date of the injector is close to expiration.
- All ASCIA Anaphylaxis Action Response Posters will be displayed in the first aid room as appropriate.
- We will maintain open communication with parents.
- The school won’t ban certain types of foods (eg: nuts) as it is not practicable to do so across a whole school, and is not a strategy recommended by the Department of Education or the Royal Children’s Hospital. However, the school will request that parents within certain classrooms where allergies are present, do not send those items to school.

Evaluation:
This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s four-year review cycle.