ANAPHYLAXIS

RATIONALE
Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction to a substance, most commonly nuts, egg, milk, wheat, soy, seafood, some insect stings and medications. The condition develops in approximately 1-2% of the population. (see Ministerial Order 90 - Anaphylaxis Management in Schools)

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.
- The school will not 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 & Friends eliminate or reduce the likelihood of such allergens when serving food to students and actively discourage the sharing of food between students. Families of students in a class with an anaphylaxis student will be notified in order to avoid trigger allergens at class parties and birthday cakes.
- The school will use the Action Plan for Anaphylaxis as developed by the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) and found on their website www.allergy.org.au

- Our school will manage anaphylaxis by:-
  - providing professional development for all staff
  - identifying susceptible students and knowing their allergens
  - alerting staff to students and their allergens through emails and the First Aid room alert poster
  - requiring parents to provide an Anaphylaxis Management Plan completed by a health professional and an Epipen if necessary, both of which will be maintained in the first aid room for reference as required
  - only enrolling students with anaphylaxis after an Anaphylaxis Management Plan has been completed as per DEECD guidelines
  - ensuring key staff are provided with professional development on the response to anaphylaxis and the proper use of an Epipen
  - conduct twice a year briefings for staff if a students with anaphylaxis is enrolled
  - informing the community about anaphylaxis via the newsletter
  - actively discourage food sharing, and restricting food to that approved by parents
  - keeping the lawns well mown and ensuring children always wear shoes

EVALUATION
- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three year review cycle.

School Council approved 6-12-2011