

Midfield Primary School



POLICY DOCUMENT

Children with Allergies

	Name	Date
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The School Policy to Support Children with Allergies

Aims

To ensure that children with allergies:

- are healthy
- stay safe
- enjoy and achieve
- make a positive contribution to the life of the school

Statement of Intent:

This policy is concerned with a whole school approach to the health care and management of those members of the school community suffering from specific allergies.

Midfield Primary School is aware that children who attend may suffer from food, bee/ wasp sting, animal or nut allergies and we believe that all allergies should be taken seriously and dealt with in a professional and appropriate way.

Midfield Primary School seeks to minimise the risk of exposure, encourage self responsibility, and plan for effective response to possible emergencies.

Midfield Primary School is committed to no food and drink sharing.

The Statutory Framework states that the provider must obtain information about any dietary requirements/allergy. As such parents are asked to provide details of allergies in the child's Enrolment pack, which is submitted before starting school.

Aim: The intent of this policy is to minimize the risk of any child suffering allergy-induced anaphylaxis whilst at school.

An allergic reaction to nuts is the most common high risk allergy, and as such demands more rigorous controls throughout the policy.

The underlying principles of this policy include:

- The establishment of effective risk management practices to minimise the student, staff, parent and visitor exposure to known trigger foods and insects.
- Staff training and education to ensure effective emergency response to any allergic reaction situation.

This policy applies to all members of the school community: • School Staff • Parents / Guardians • Volunteers • Visitors • Students

Definitions:

- Allergy - A condition in which the body has an exaggerated response to a substance (e.g. food and drug) also known as hypersensitivity
- Allergen - A normally harmless substance that triggers an allergic reaction in the immune system of a susceptible person
- Anaphylaxis - Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a sudden, severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction to food, stings, bites, or medicines
- EpiPen - Brand name for syringe style device containing the drug Adrenalin, which is ready for immediate inter-muscular administration
- Minimized Risk Environment- An environment where risk management practices (e.g. Risk assessment forms) have minimised the risk of (allergen) exposure

- Health Care Plan- A document outlining an individual student's condition, treatment, and action plan for location and administration of Epipen.

Procedures and Responsibilities for Allergy Management:

General

- The involvement of parents and staff in establishing individual Health Care Plans
- The establishment and maintenance of practices for effectively communicating a child's healthcare plans to all relevant staff
- Staff training in anaphylaxis management, including awareness of triggers and first aid procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency
- Age appropriate education of the children with severe food allergies

Medical Information

- The school will seek updated information via medical form at the commencement of each academic year
- Furthermore, any change in a child's medical condition during the year must be reported to the school
- For pupils with an allergic condition, the school requires parents / guardians to provide written advice, which explains the condition, defines the allergy triggers and any required medication
- A Health Care Protocol is established and updated for each child with a known allergy
- Teachers and PTP's of those students and key staff are required to review and familiarise themselves with the medical information
- Action Plans with a recent photograph for any students with allergies will be posted in relevant rooms with parental permission
- Where students with known allergies are participating in school excursions, the risk assessments must include this information

Emergency Treatment Where Epipens (Adrenalin) are required in the Health Care Plan:

- Parents/ guardians are responsible for the provision and timely replacement of the Epipens
 - The Epipens are located securely in relevant locations

Parents' role:

- Parents are responsible for providing, in writing, on-going accurate and current medical information to the school.
- Parents are to send a letter confirming and detailing the nature of the allergy; including:
 - The allergen (the substance the child is allergic to)
 - The nature of the allergic reaction (from rash, breathing problems to anaphylactic shock)
- What to do in case of allergic reaction, including any medication to be used and how it is to be used
- Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from getting into contact with the allergen
- If a child has an allergy requiring an Epipen, or the risk assessment deems it necessary, a Health Care Plan must be completed and signed by the parents
- It is the responsibility of the Parent to provide the school with up to date medication / equipment clearly labelled in a suitable container
- Parents are also required to provide up to date emergency contact information.
- Snacks and lunches brought into school are provided by each child's Parent

- It is their responsibility to ensure that the contents are safe for the child to consume
- Parents should liaise with Staff about appropriateness of snacks and any food-related activities (e.g. cooking)

Staff's role: Staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with the policy and to adhere to health & safety regulations regarding food and drink.

- If a child's Enrolment Form states that they have an allergy then a Health Care Protocol is needed. A risk assessment should be carried out and any actions identified to be put in place to ensure equality of access during the school day or during events and activities.
- Upon determining that a child attending school has a severe allergy, a team meeting will be set up as soon as possible where all staff concerned attend to update knowledge and awareness of child's needs. The School Caterers must be informed
 - All staff who come into contact with the child will be made aware of what treatment/medication is required and where any medication is stored
 - All staff are to promote hand washing before and after eating
 - Snack time food is monitored by staff and must be peanut, nut free and other allergens depending on the children attending. All staff should know the procedures at snack and lunch time to ensure the safety of children with allergies
 - All tables are cleaned with an approved solution
 - Children are not permitted to share food
 - We may ask the parent for a list of food products and food derivatives the child must not come into contact with
 - Emergency medication should be easily accessible, especially at times of high risk
 - Staff should liaise with parents about snacks and any food-related activities.

Actions

In the event of a child suffering an allergic reaction:

- If a protocol (Health Care Action Plan) is in place for the child this will be followed.
- We will delegate someone to contact the child's parents
 - If a child becomes distressed or symptoms become more serious telephone 999
 - Keep calm, make the child feel comfortable and give the child space
 - If medication is available it will be administered as per training and in conjunction with the Medication Policy and Health Care Protocol
- If parents have not arrived by the time ambulance arrives, a member of staff will accompany the child to hospital

Role of other parents

- The school will request that snacks and lunches brought to the school by other parents be peanut and nut free. Midfield Primary is a 'nut free school'
- The school will ensure that parents are regularly reminded and will monitor the contents of lunchboxes and snacks.