



**ST BERNARD'S
PREPARATORY SCHOOL
EARLY YEARS DEPARTMENT**

**ALLERGY AND ANAPHYLAXIS
POLICY**

ADVENT 2018

St Bernard's Preparatory School

ALLERGY AND ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

Mission Statement

With God as our shelter and Christ as our guide, the mission of St Bernard's Preparatory School is to educate towards love and service to God, each other and the wider community. Through our broad balanced curriculum we will develop an understanding of each faith and the values we share. We will treat each person with respect, knowing we are special and unique.

St Bernard's is part of the St Benedict's family of schools. All schools in the group share a similar Catholic and Benedictine/Bernardine ethos.

INTRODUCTION

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.

The position of St Bernard's Preparatory School is not to guarantee a completely allergen free environment, rather: to minimise the risk of exposure, encourage self-responsibility, and plan for effective response to possible emergencies. The intent of this policy is to minimize the risk of any pupil suffering allergy-induced anaphylaxis whilst at school or attending any school related activity.

The common causes of allergies relevant to this policy are nuts (in particular peanuts), dairy products, eggs, wasps, bees etc. An allergic reaction to nuts is the most common high risk allergy, and as such demands more rigorous controls throughout the policy.

RATIONALE

The underlying principles of this policy include:

- The establishment of effective risk management practices to minimise the pupil, 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.

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 detailed document outlining an individual student's condition treatment, and action plan for location of EpiPen.

Key Strategies:

General

- The involvement of parents, staff and the pupil in establishing individual Health Care Plans.
- The establishment and maintenance of practices for effectively communicating individual pupil medical 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.
- Parents / Guardians are requested to carefully consider eliminating allergenic food stuffs from their child's lunch boxes and celebratory events.

Nut related

- Classroom teachers promote hand washing before and after eating.
- Students with dairy product or egg allergies are managed by the school in consultation with the parents / guardians on a case by case basis.

Insect related

- Diligent management of wasp and ant nests on school grounds.
- Education of students to report significant presence of insects in play areas.

Other allergies

Students with allergies are managed by the school in consultation with the parents /guardians on a case by case basis.

Procedures and Responsibilities for Allergy Management

Medical Form for pupils with Allergy.

Every time parents inform the school about any allergy regarding their child a Medical Form will be sent home for the parents to complete. The Medical Form is filed in the pupil file, a copy will be given to the pupil's teacher and a copy is held in the Medical Room. The name of the pupil will be listed on the Special Medical Needs chart. The lists are kept constantly updated. Copies of the lists are held in the Office, Medical Room, Kitchen and the pupil's classroom. Parents will be asked to complete an Administering Medication Consent Form if required.

Confidentiality

Information given by parents regarding their child's health will be treated in confidence and only shared with other staff when necessary or appropriate.

Medical Information

Parents are responsible for providing, in writing, ongoing accurate and current medical information to the school. The school will seek updated information via a medical form at the commencement of each school year.

Furthermore, any change in a pupil's medical condition during the year must be reported to the school.

The school will ensure that documents are updated for each pupil with a known allergy.

All staff who deal directly with pupils who have allergies are required to review and familiarise themselves with the medical information.

A poster with a recent photograph for any pupils with allergies will be posted in relevant rooms.

St. Bernard's Preparatory School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all pupils fulfil their potential.

Relevant sports coaches are provided with medical information for any pupil with known allergy prior to undertaking the activity. The wearing of a medic-alert bracelet is allowed by the School.

Medical Information (EpiPens)

Where EpiPens (Adrenalin) are required:

- Parents/ guardians are responsible for the provision and timely replacement of the EpiPens, at least of one EpiPen, in case of severe allergy the school recommend parents to make available two Epi-Pens.
- The EpiPens are located securely in relevant locations approved by the Headmaster e.g. Medical Room, Early Years Medical Cabinet.
- The member of staff on duty during a school trip will make sure to take with them the Epi-Pen.
- For residential trip any medical issues are managed by the teacher in consultation with the parents / guardians on a case by case basis.

Applies to:

Whole School including Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), all staff, peripatetics, clubs and extra-curricular activity providers, volunteers, Trustees, Governors.

Related policies:

Safeguarding Portfolio, Health and Safety, Administration of Medicines, First Aid

Availability:

This Policy is available to parents on the website www.stbernards.org or a copy can be requested from the school office.

Monitoring and Review

The Governors will undertake a formal review of this policy for the purpose of monitoring the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged no later than two years from the date shown below, or earlier if significant changes to the systems and arrangements take place, or if legislation, regulatory requirements or best practice guidelines so require.

Signed by _____

Headmaster _____

Date _____

Chair of Governors _____

Date _____