
Allergy Management Policy

Introduction

Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction at the extreme end of the allergic spectrum. Anaphylaxis may occur within minutes of exposure to the allergen, although sometimes it can take hours. It can be life threatening if not treated quickly with adrenaline.

Any allergic reaction, including anaphylaxis, occurs because the body's immune system reacts inappropriately in response to the presence of a substance that it perceives as a threat. Common triggers of anaphylaxis include:

- Peanuts and tree nuts – peanut allergy and tree nut allergy frequently cause severe reactions and for that reason have received widespread publicity.
- Other foods (for example dairy products, egg, fish, shellfish and soya)
- Insect stings
- Latex
- Drugs

Aims

South View School recognizes that allergies are common and that it is likely that some pupils with allergies may be at risk of anaphylaxis. The importance of creating awareness and an allergen safe school environment is a priority in preventing life-threatening anaphylaxis. The risk of exposure to allergens for a student is reduced when school staff, pupils and parents work together to ensure that a pupil with allergies does not come into contact with their particular allergen.

Management

- Allergen avoidance – ensuring the teacher is aware of any pupils with allergies and their particular triggers (allergens). This is especially important when other pupils bring birthday and end of term treats into class.
- Precautions should be taken when pupils are outdoors or on trips, making sure that shoes are always worn, food and drink is covered and kept in sight.

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- The formation of an Individual Healthcare Plan in conjunction with the child's physician and parents providing detailed information about their child's specific allergens, history and medications.
- Teachers should have a knowledge of food ingredients that are brought into class and pupils are discouraged from sharing food.
- Ensure that school staff are aware of pupils with allergies. An allergy and condition list is shared with all the staff and updated throughout the school year.
- The immediate access to the adrenaline auto-injector is essential. Parents are advised to ensure that their child's adrenaline auto-injector is in date and labelled with their child's name and class. Each pupils individually prescribed adrenaline auto-injector, clearly labelled, will be stored in the School Clinic. It is also advisable to keep an extra Epipen in the classroom if parents can provide.
- South View School promotes a nut free environment.
- All school staff are encouraged to act as positive role models for children in all aspects of food choices.

