Anaphylaxis

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.

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.

Our school will manage anaphylaxis by:

• providing professional development for all staff
• identifying susceptible students and knowing their allergens
• informing the community about anaphylaxis via the newsletter
• not allowing food sharing, and restricting food to that approved by parents
• requiring parents to provide an emergency management plan developed by a health professional and an EpiPen if necessary, both of which will be maintained in the first aid room for reference as required
• ensuring staff are provided with regular professional development on the identification and response to anaphylaxis and the proper use of an EpiPen.

The school won't ban certain types of foods (e.g. nuts) as it is not practicable to do so, and is not a strategy recommended by the Department
of Education or the Royal Children’s Hospital. However, the school will request that parents do not send those items to school if at all possible; that the canteen eliminate or reduce the likelihood of such allergens, and the school will reinforce the rules about not sharing and not eating foods provided from home.

**Evaluation**

This policy is now under review