

McDonald Park School

NUT AWARENESS POLICY

Context:

DECS requires schools to promote and construct learning environments that are safe and supportive. Students and staff may have anaphylactic (severe allergic) conditions, that include nut allergies. This means that exposure at school may constitute a risk to the health and well being. It is not possible to guarantee that the environment will be completely free of potential hazards, however, compliance to reasonable guidelines will minimise the potential risks.

Purpose:

- To provide a safe learning environment for all members of the McDonald Park School community by lessening the possibility of severe allergic reactions to nuts/ nut products.
- To raise the awareness of all members of the community regarding severe allergies.

Management:

Where a parent of a child with an allergy to nuts or nut products has alerted the school to the fact (backed by medical evidence /documentation), the school will manage the situation in the following way:

Parents:

- Parents and caregivers being asked to take this into consideration when they are packing their child's lunch. Where possible pack an alternative to peanut butter, Nutella or similar, nuts, peanut cooking oil and other foods that may contain nuts.

Students:

- Students being encouraged NOT to share or purchase food for other students.
- Students being encouraged to wash hands after eating.
- Students bringing food that contain nuts or nut products being asked to eat that food away from any other students and to wash their hands after eating.

Staff:

- Staff supervising eating at lunch time in classrooms or another confined area.
- Staff made aware of students who have anaphylactic responses, including nut allergy.
- Staff participating in training from appropriate St John/Red Cross in understanding and dealing with Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions).

Canteen:

- The School canteen complying with the Nut Awareness Policy.

Promotion:

The policy will be promoted by:

- Parents and caregivers being informed via the newsletter and other correspondence.
- New families to the school community being informed via Enrolment Information Packs.
- Governing Council being informed and giving approval and support of this policy.
- Staff being informed and provided with training opportunities.
- Students being informed via teachers, signs and newsletters.

We acknowledge that due to food processing practices it is impractical to eliminate nuts and nut products entirely from an environment where there is food. The emphasis is therefore on raising awareness and adopting the reasonable procedures termed as "Nut Awareness" thus we are a "Nut Aware" School.

Review:

This policy will be reviewed by staff and Governing Council every two years.

Policy developed June 2009, ratified by Governing Council June 2009