

Allergy Aware Policy



Responsibility	First Aid Officer
Endorsed by Council	June 2023
Due for Review	June 2026

Focus	Allergy Awareness is the ongoing process of supporting those with Allergies through an effective program that informs and educates students, staff and parents in this area.
Guidelines	To promote the safety of all students as an 'Allergy Aware' school by supporting those that suffer from difficulties relating to allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis. We aim to educate all members of our school community regarding the medical risks, allergens, management and alternatives when supporting allergy sufferers. Also refer to the Anaphylaxis Policy for further information and direction regarding allergies and the school response.
Definitions	<p>What is Allergy? An allergy occurs when the body's immune system overreacts to a normally harmless substance. Substances that can trigger an allergic reaction are called allergens. Allergens that trigger an allergic reaction may be in medication, the environment, like pollens, grasses, moulds, dogs and cats, or sometimes in the food we eat. Individuals can have mild allergies or severe allergies. Up to 40% of Australian children are affected by allergies or some sort during their lifetime. The most common allergic conditions in children are food allergies, eczema, asthma and hay fever. What is Food Intolerance? Many people think their child is allergic to a food when in fact they are intolerant to a food. Food intolerance symptoms include headaches after eating too much chocolate, bloating after a milkshake or pasta, or skin hives after eating foods high in chemicals such as amines or salicylates. Food allergy is NOT the only cause of body symptoms after eating a food. Symptoms that occur several hours after a food is eaten are more often a result of an intolerance to a natural food chemical or enzyme deficiency and are not an allergy.</p>
Implementation	Our school will be "Allergy Aware" through:
Parent Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informing school through enrolment process of individual student risks and medical needs • Asking all parents to sign an agreement that they understand and are willing to support the "Allergy Aware School" program. • Being informed and allergy aware of their child's condition, preventatives and responses. • Providing a management plan prepared by a health professional. • Supporting Allergy Aware initiatives at school
School Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying students with known allergens, and ensuring they have a management plan prepared by a health professional. • Providing appropriate professional development for staff annually • Developing management processes that are specific to particular allergens.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing opportunities for the community to learn more about managing allergies and how they can support the student, family and the school. • Asking all parents to sign an agreement that they understand and are willing to support the “Allergy Aware School” program. • Ensuring the school canteen and Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden menu is aware and supportive of students with allergies wherever possible. • Encouraging non-food party favours to celebrate birthdays and healthy, allergy aware class parties. <p>School staff are responsible for ensuring they have completed annual anaphylaxis training and accreditation.</p> <p>The Health and Wellbeing Leader will ensure that the school has at least two accredited Anaphylaxis Trainers.</p> <p>Parents are responsible for providing all pertinent information, medication and alternate food as necessary, and ensuring medical details and the Anaphylaxis management plan is kept up to date.</p> <p>First Aid Coordinators are responsible for keeping an up-to-date register of students at risk, storing and checking auto-adrenaline injectors to ensure they are in date, and providing or arranging post incident support.</p>
Student Responsibilities	Being Allergy Aware of their own allergens and taking responsibility for their own health and safety wherever possible.
Related Documents	<p>Supporting Document – “Anaphylaxis Causes, Signs and Symptoms”.</p> <p>Full details are contained in the “Anaphylaxis Guidelines” document</p>
Additional Educational Resources	<p>Are you Food Allergy Aware – Ana & Phil Axis - Power Point Presentation</p> <p>T:\Health and Wellbeing\Allergy Anaphylaxis</p>
Related	<p>Intranet Processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allergy Aware / Anaphylaxis Management Process <p>Intranet Supporting Documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Allergy Aware School” Parent Support Letter ¶ • Anaphylaxis Policy • Anaphylaxis Management Plan • Additional Education Resources

	<p>External Links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEECD (Anaphylaxis) https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/anaphylaxis.aspx • 'Be a Mate' Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia www.allergyfacts.org.au • Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) • National Asthma Council (NAC) • Virtual Medical Centre • Anaphylaxis Australia • Dieticians Association of Australia
Review	This Policy shall be reviewed by the Health and Wellbeing Committee by June 2026 or prior if deemed necessary.

Berwick Fields Primary School will fully comply with Ministerial Order 706 and the associated Guidelines published and amended by the Department from time to time.