**Rationale:**

An allergy occurs when a person’s immune system reacts to substances in the environment (allergens) that are harmless for most people. Allergic reactions can range from mild to severe.

Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. The most common allergens in school aged children are peanuts, eggs, tree nuts (e.g. cashews), cow’s milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, sesame and certain insect stings (particularly bee stings).

The key to prevention of anaphylaxis in schools is knowledge of the student who has been diagnosed as at risk, awareness of allergens, and prevention of exposure to those allergens. Partnerships between schools and parents/guardians are important in helping the student avoid exposure.

Adrenaline given through an adrenaline autoinjector (such as an EpiPen® or Anapen®) into the muscle of the outer mid thigh is the most effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

**Aim:**

* To provide, as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of the student’s schooling.
* To raise awareness about anaphylaxis and the school’s anaphylaxis management procedures in the school community.
* To engage with parents/guardians of each student at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies for the student.
* To ensure that staff have knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the school’s guidelines and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

**Implementation:**

**Individual Anaphylaxis Health Care Plans**

The principal will ensure that an Individual Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan is developed in consultation with the student’s parents/guardians, for any student who has been diagnosed by a medical practitioner as being at risk of anaphylaxis.

The Individual Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan will be in place as soon as practicable after the student is enrolled and where possible before their first day of school.

The student’s Individual Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student’s parents/guardians:

* annually, and as applicable,
* if the student’s condition changes,
* immediately after the student has an anaphylactic reaction.

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to:

* provide an ASCIA Action Plan completed by the child’s medical practitioner with a current photo,
* inform the school if their child’s medical condition changes, and if relevant provide an updated ASCIA Action Plan.

**Communication**

* The principal will be responsible for providing information to all staff, students and parents/guardians about anaphylaxis and development of the school’s anaphylaxis management strategies.
* Volunteers and casual relief staff will be informed on arrival at the school if they are caring for a student at risk of anaphylaxis and their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

**Staff training and emergency response**

* Teachers and other school staff who have contact with the student at risk of anaphylaxis, are encouraged to undertake training in anaphylaxis management including how to respond in an emergency.
* At other times while the student is under the care or supervision of the school, including excursions, yard duty, camps and special event days, the principal must ensure that there is a sufficient number of staff present who have up to date training and know how to recognise, prevent and treat anaphylaxis. Training will be provided to these staff as soon as practicable after the student enrols.
* Wherever possible, training will take place before the student’s first day at school. Where this is not possible, an interim plan will be developed in consultation with the student’s parents/guardians.
* The school’s first aid procedures and student’s ASCIA Action Plan will be followed when responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

**Procedures:**

To minimise the risk of exposure to allergens that may cause allergic reaction or anaphylaxis at St Joseph’s School Waroona:

School community:

* All staff, students and volunteers will be educated about food allergies.
* The canteen will not sell nut products. Any products that may contain nut traces will be clearly identified as such.
* New families are informed of St Joseph’s School Waroona being Nut Aware when starting at the school, with reminders published regularly in the newsletter.
* Medical Action Plans will be kept in classrooms, specialist areas, first aid areas, and front office.
* Shoes are encouraged to be worn on grassed areas to prevent stings/bites.
* Notify parents/guardians of any life-threatening food allergies within the school community and the foods that cause the allergy.

Staff

All staff are asked to support the community by:

* Supervising students eating at recess and lunchtime.
* Taking EpiPen and anaphylaxis plans to school events, along with a mobile for emergency calls.
* Avoid bringing nut based products into the school.
* Reminding students not to share food.
* Incorporating allergy awareness into the health program.
* Teaching children the importance of washing hands before/after eating.
* Consider catering for camps/excursions/class parties etc.
* Reminding students and parents of our school’s allergy awareness.
* Having up to date training in allergy awareness and anaphylaxis first aid.

Students

Education about food safety and the seriousness and potential life-threatening nature of allergies takes place within the classroom environment.

* Students are encouraged to wash hands after eating
* If any potentially harmful food is brought to school by mistake children are encouraged to inform the classroom or duty teacher so that risk may be minimised.
* Students are reminded not to share or swap food.
* Any inappropriate behaviour relating to an ‘at risk’ student’s food allergy will be taken seriously and dealt with immediately by a member of the leadership team.

Families

The Allergy and Anaphylaxis Procedure will be managed by:

* Parents and caregivers are requested NOT to send food to school that contains nuts, especially peanuts. This includes peanut butter, Nutella, all nuts, products containing nuts and cooked products containing nut oils. This is especially important in the Junior Primary and ECE areas where young children are less able to manage their allergy.
* Parents consult with the class teacher BEFORE sending food from home (e.g. birthday treats)
* The class teacher will advise of specific allergies in the class.