



ST COLUMBA'S

PRIMARY SCHOOL WILSTON

SCHOOL POLICY

ANAPHYLAXIS

Policy Statement

At St Columba's, our top priority is the health and safety of our students. We are dedicated to being an Allergy Aware School, which means we:

- Raise awareness about allergies and their real risks.
- Encourage allergy sufferers to avoid their triggers.
- Are ready to take action in case of anaphylaxis, or a severe allergic reaction.

In our school community, about 1 in 20 children has a food allergy, and some have life-threatening allergies. To ensure their safety, we take steps to minimize risks, educate, and respond effectively.

Our Anaphylaxis Policy Aims To:

- Safely support students with severe allergies and anaphylaxis.
- Develop practical plans for students with life-threatening allergies, involving their parents/guardians.
- Raise awareness about allergies in the school.
- Establish food management, safe handling, and hygiene protocols.
- Ensure staff members are trained in anaphylaxis management and using adrenaline auto-injectors.

The following information on what anaphylaxis is, signs and symptoms, treatment, and prevention has been sourced from Queensland Health.¹

What is Anaphylaxis?

anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that can occur when the body comes into contact with a substance (called an 'allergen') to which it is allergic. Anaphylaxis can be life-threatening and should always be considered a medical emergency. Common causes of anaphylaxis include insect venom (wasp, bee, hornet, fire ant) food (peanut, tree nut, egg, cow's milk, wheat, fish, shellfish, soy and sesame).

Severe Allergic Reaction:

- Difficult/noisy breathing
- Swelling of tongue
- Difficulty talking and/or hoarse voice
- Wheeze or persistent cough
- Persistent dizziness or collapse
- Pale and floppy (young children)

Mild to Moderate Allergic Reaction:

- Tingling mouth

¹ "Anaphylaxis" < <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/condition/accidents-injuries-and-poisonings/allergic-reactions/anaphylaxis> > accessed on 19 November 2023.

- Hives or welts
- Swelling of lips, face, eyes
- Abdominal pain, vomiting (these are signs of anaphylaxis for insect allergy)

Symptoms usually begin within 5-30 minutes from the time of exposure but may occur hours later (usually within 2 hours).

Treatment

Anaphylaxis is a life-threatening allergic reaction and should be considered a medical emergency, call 000 (emergency services) immediately. Treatment requires an injection of adrenaline injection. A patient with a history of anaphylaxis may carry an adrenaline autoinjector device called an 'EpiPen' or 'Anapen. Adrenaline autoinjectors are pre-loaded syringes that inject a single dose of adrenaline. This should be administered whilst the ambulance is on its way.

Prevention

To prevent future allergic reactions:

- Avoid allergens that trigger anaphylaxis.
- Allergy testing by a specialist can help identify the triggers.
- Insect allergy may benefit from allergen immunotherapy ('desensitisation').
- Currently, there's no cure for food allergies, so avoiding known allergens is crucial.

Inform close contacts, including friends, family, and school teachers about allergies. This helps them recognise early signs of anaphylaxis and avoid triggers. Some people wear medical information bracelets to alert others in case of a reaction in public.

St Columba's Procedures

We follow the "7 Steps to Allergy Awareness in Schools" Guide to develop our policy and procedures.

Our Commitment

School Community

- We promote awareness and prevention of allergen exposure.
- We inform all new families about our policy.
- The tuckshop follows strict allergy protocols and educates staff and students.

Students

- We educate students about food safety and allergy seriousness.
- We encourage handwashing and prohibit food sharing.

Staff

- Staff receive regular anaphylaxis first aid training.
- We have anaphylaxis plans displayed for at-risk students.
- Anaphylaxis kits are available at various locations.
- Staff will assist to monitor the expiration date of medication held in the office.

Roles and Responsibilities of Tuckshop Staff

- Do not provide food to anaphylactic students without parental consent.

- Maintain a clean environment to prevent cross-contamination.
- Supervise the sale of new foods and samples.
- Be informed about food allergies.
- Induct all new parent volunteers for awareness.

Our Expectations

Families/Caregivers of At-Risk Students

- Communicate the student's allergies and ensure all staff are aware.
- Educate the child about allergies.
- Consider disclosing the allergy to other students for safety.
- Permit the school to share medical information.
- Provide an emergency kit and immediately replace any expired medication when necessary.

This policy ensures we protect all students while being proactive and responsive to allergies.

Enforcement and Compliance

This policy is enforced to uphold the safety standards of our school community. Compliance is expected from all parents, staff, visitors and volunteers to ensure the well-being of our students and staff.

Review and Adoption

This policy is effective immediately upon adoption by the school administration and will be reviewed periodically to ensure its alignment with safety protocols and regulatory guidelines. Any necessary revisions will be communicated to all stakeholders promptly.

Approval and Review Details

Approval and Review			
Prepared By	Parent Representatives, WHSO Peter Maynard and School Principal Andrew Oberthur.		
Approved By	School Leadership Team		
Endorsed By	St Columba's School Board	Date:	November 2023
Next Review Date	November 2026		