

Saint Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Our Mission in Saint Patrick's is to develop each child's talents potential in a caring Catholic community inspired by the teachings of Jesus Christ.

SAFEGUARDING – Keeping ALL of our children safe

ALLERGIES POLICY

Saint Patrick's Catholic Primary School fully recognises its responsibilities for child protection.

Rationale

This policy is concerned with a whole school approach to the health care and management of those members of the school community suffering from specific allergies.

Saint Patrick's Catholic Primary School are aware that children who attend may suffer from food, bee/ wasp sting, animal or food allergies and we believe that all allergies should be taken seriously and dealt with in a professional and appropriate way.

Saint Patrick's Catholic Primary School's position is not to guarantee a completely allergen free environment but rather to minimise the risk of exposure, encourage self-responsibility, and plan for effective response to possible emergencies.

The Statutory Framework states that the provider must obtain information about any dietary requirements/allergy. As such parents are asked to provide details of allergies in the child's Health Form, which is submitted before starting school.

Aim and objectives

The intent of this policy is to minimise the risk of any child suffering allergy-induced anaphylaxis whilst at school.

The underlying principles of this policy include:

The establishment of effective risk management practices to minimise the student, staff, parent and visitor exposure to known trigger foods and insects.

Staff training and education to ensure effective emergency response to any allergic reaction situation.

This policy applies to all members of the school community:

School Staff

Parents / Guardians

Volunteers

Supply staff

Students

General

The school will always involve the parents and staff in establishing individual Health Care Plans.

The school will establish and maintain practices for effectively communicating a child's healthcare plans to all relevant staff.

Annual staff training in anaphylaxis management if needed, including awareness of triggers and first aid procedures, including Epipen training, to be followed in the event of an emergency.

Age appropriate education of the children with severe food allergies and their peers (where relevant).

Medical Information

Parents/Guardians must report any change in a child's medical condition during the year to the school.

The SLT will ensure that a Health Care Plan is established, if appropriate, and updated for each child with a known allergy.

Teachers and teacher assistants of those students and key staff are required to review and familiarise themselves with the medical information.

Action Plans with a recent photograph for any students with allergies will be posted in relevant rooms with parental permission.

Where students with known allergies are participating in school excursions, the risk assessments must include this information.

Parents must communicate allergies with the catering company. All children with known allergies will wear a yellow band when collecting their lunch from the dining hall.

Medical Information (Epipens)

Where Epipens (Adrenalin) are required in the Health Care Plan:

Parents/guardians are responsible for the provision and timely replacement of the Epipens.

The Epipens are located securely in relevant locations approved by the SLT.

Parent's role:

Parents are responsible for providing, in writing, on-going accurate and current medical information to the school.

Parents are to send a letter confirming and detailing the nature of the allergy; including:

The allergen (the substance the child is allergic to)

The nature of the allergic reaction (from rash, breathing problems to anaphylactic shock)
What to do in case of allergic reaction, including any medication to be used and how it is to be used.

Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from getting into contact with the allergen.

If a child has an allergy requiring an EpiPen, or the risk assessment deems it necessary, a Health Care Plan must be completed and signed by the parents. It is the responsibility of the Parent to provide the school with up to date medication/equipment clearly labelled in a suitable container.

Parents are also required to provide up to date emergency contact information.

It is their responsibility to ensure that any food they bring to school are safe for the child to consume.

Parents should liaise with staff about appropriateness of snacks and any food-related activities (e.g. cooking)

Staff's role:

- * Staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with the policy and to adhere to health & safety regulations regarding food and drink.
- * If a child's Medical Form states that they have an allergy which requires an EpiPen, then a Health Care Plan is needed. It must be in place before the child starts attending sessions. A risk assessment should be carried and any actions identified to be put in place. The Assessment should be stored with the child's Health Care Plan.
- * The Headteacher will determine if a ban on certain foods is needed after a consultation with the parent/guardian and health professional. She will then publicise this to the whole school community.
- * All staff who come into contact with the child will be made aware of what treatment/medication is required by the school Leader and where any medication is stored.
 - * All staff are to promote hand washing before and after eating.
- * All staff should know the procedures at snack and lunch time to ensure the safety of children with allergies.
- * Staff cannot guarantee that foods will not contain traces of nuts.
- * All tables are cleaned with an approved solution.
- * Children are not permitted to share food unless part of a planned activity that the teacher has risk assessed.
- * As part of the staff first aid course, EpiPen use and storage has been discussed.
- * We may ask the parent for a list of food products and food derivatives the child must not come into contact with.
- * Emergency medication should be easily accessible, especially at times of high risk. * Staff should liaise with parents about snacks and any food-related activities.

Actions:

In the event of a child suffering an allergic reaction:

Check to see if there is a Health Care Plan and follow instructions.

If no Health Care Plan and the child is suffering serious symptoms ring 999 and follow advice.

Contact parent to advise or ask for advice if less serious symptoms.

Calm the child

POLICY REVIEW

The Governing Body will undertake an annual review of the school's Policy as part of its review of Safeguarding Policies. The school will remedy any deficiencies or weaknesses found without delay.

Policy updated: September 2024

Date of next review: September 2025

Responsibility: SLT / INCLUSION TEAM

DETERMINED