

Mission Statement Motto: *Building relationships with God and each other, working hard in faith and hope to give our best in all things.*

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Allergies and Nut Policy

Autumn 2023

Core Values: *Respect, Honesty, Tolerance, Justice, Forgiveness*

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Mission Statement

Holy Cross is a Catholic Primary School. Its religious dimension lies at its heart and is fundamental to its existence. Its ethos is based around Christian values as laid down by the person of Jesus Christ, and exemplified in His teaching.

Our Mission Statement expresses this clearly:

Holy Cross is a Catholic school which seeks to build a closer partnership with parents, the parish and the wider community.

We work hard to provide an environment which is secure, stimulating and happy and where everyone is appreciated and enabled to give of their best.

We encourage all to have respect for each individual, to be honest, tolerant, just and forgiving and to develop a closer relationship with each other and through this, a closer relationship with God.

We recognise Jean Baptiste Debrabant's vision that:

"A Christian based education is a sure hope for the future of religion and society."

Statement of Intent

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.

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

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School does not guarantee a completely allergen free environment, rather to minimise the risk of exposure, encourage self-responsibility and plan for effective response to possible emergencies.

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School is committed to a "no food and drink sharing" approach.

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 Pupil Enrolment Form.

Aim

The aim of this policy is to minimise the risk of any child suffering any allergic reactions whilst at school. An allergic reaction to nuts is the most common high risk allergy and as such demands more rigorous controls throughout the policy. The underlying principles of this policy include:

- The establishment of effective risk management practices to minimise pupil, 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:

- Pupils
- School Staff
- Parents/Guardians

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- Volunteers
- Supply Staff
- Visitors, including contractors

Definitions

Allergy - A condition in which the body has an exaggerated response to a substance (eg food and drug) also known as hypersensitivity

Allergen - A normally harmless substance that triggers an allergic reaction in the immune system of a susceptible person

Anaphylaxis - or anaphylactic shock, is a sudden, severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction to food, stings, bites, or medicines

EpiPen - Brand name for syringe style device containing the drug Adrenalin, which is ready for immediate inter-muscular administration

Minimised Risk Environment - An environment where risk management practices (eg Risk Assessment Forms) have minimised the risk of (allergen) exposure

Risk Assessment/ Health Care Plan - A detailed document outlining an individual child's condition, treatment and action plan

Procedures and Responsibilities for Allergy Management

General

- The involvement of parents and staff in establishing individual Risk Assessments/ Health Care Plans
- The establishment and maintenance of practices for effectively communicating a child's Health Care Plans to all relevant staff
- Staff training in anaphylaxis management, including awareness of triggers and first aid procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency
- Age appropriate education of the children with severe food allergies
- Snacks and lunches brought into the school must be peanut and nut free
- Parents will be reminded regularly about allergies and the school's no nut policy

Medical Information

- Parents will initially highlight a child's allergies on Holy Cross Catholic Primary School's Pupil Enrolment Form before starting at school
- For children with an allergy, parents will be asked to fill out a Special Diet/Allergy Form to explain the condition, define any allergy triggers and any required medication
- If needed, additional written or oral advice will be obtained from a doctor or allergy nurse
- Any change in a child's medical condition during the year must be reported to the school
- The SENCO will carry out a Risk Assessment and ensure that, where needed, a Health Care Plan is established and updated
- Admin staff will record information on Arbor and create information sheets for class teachers, Around School Provision and the school kitchen

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Medical Information (EpiPens)

Where an EpiPen is required:

- Parents/ Guardians are responsible for the provision and timely replacement of the EpiPens; two EpiPens will be required
- Individual EpiPens are located in the relevant classroom
- EpiPen training will be provided for staff where a child requires an EpiPen

Parent Role

Parents are responsible for providing medical information about their child's allergy, by completing Special Diet/Allergy Form. The form includes:

- 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, parents will agree the Health Care Plan and take responsibility to provide the school with up to date medication/equipment and emergency contact information. Where an EpiPen is required, the child will not be allowed to attend school without it

Staff Role

Staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with the policy and to adhere to health and safety regulations regarding food and drink.

Upon determining that a child attending school has a severe allergy, a team meeting will be set up as soon as possible where all staff concerned attend to update knowledge and awareness of the child's needs.

All Staff who come into contact with the child will be made aware of what treatment/medication is required by the Medical Lead and where any medication is stored.

Procedures are followed to ensure the safety of children with allergies

Actions

In the event of a child suffering an allergic reaction:

- The SENCO will coordinate the calm response
- The Parent/Guardian will be contacted
- Emergency services will be called if a child becomes distressed or symptoms become more serious
- The child will be made to feel comfortable
- Where medication is provided, it will be administered according to training and the Medical Needs Policy

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- If parents have not arrived before emergency services, a member of staff will accompany the child to hospital

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