1. PURPOSE

Armadale Primary School recognises that an increasing number of students from year to year are being identified as having potentially life threatening allergies (such as anaphylaxis). The school will proactively implement a number of practices to optimise the safety and wellbeing of students who present with allergies and will aim to minimise potential triggers that may cause an allergic reaction.

2. OBJECTIVES

The Allergy Policy seeks to:

2.1. Ensure strong communication practices exist to inform and educate our whole school community about relevant allergies.

2.2. Articulate management practices that operate to minimise the risk of a severe allergic reaction.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

3.1. Students will:

3.1.1. Be aware of the nature of some common allergies and the triggers/signs related to these allergies.

3.1.2. Take appropriate action to notify a teacher if any student (including self) is experiencing the onset of symptoms related to an allergy.

3.1.3. Not share food during the school day.

3.1.4. Be respectful of all students with allergies.

3.2. Parents will:

3.2.1. Regularly provide the school with up to date information about their child’s allergy as well as any emergency contact details.

3.2.2. Provide the school with two epi pens where possible for anaphylactic students. (One to be stored in the classroom and one in the Allergy Station).

3.2.3. Ensure that Epi Pens have not expired past their use by dates.

3.2.4. Provide asthma puffers for students at risk of an asthma attack.

3.2.5. Teach their children management strategies for minimising the risk of an allergic reaction at school and during school outings.

3.2.6. Complete a medication form and forward this to the school office when any medication needs to be administered for an allergy.

3.2.7. Actively encourage their children not to share food at school.

3.3. Teachers will:

3.3.1. Undertake annual professional development relating to first aid training and anaphylaxis training every six months.

3.3.2. Keep copies of Anaphylaxis Action Plans, Asthma Management Plans, Allergic Reaction Plans in their Staff Information handbooks. (This information to be forwarded to new teachers as students progress through the school.)

3.3.3. Ensure that Epi Pens/asthma puffers and any relevant management plans are taken on school outings.

3.3.4. Facilitate lessons/ongoing discussions within their classes to ensure food is not shared amongst students.

3.3.5. Distribute a letter to all parents in their class informing them of a child who is at risk of a severe allergic reaction. This letter may request that parents refrain from sending their children to school with certain food items (eg. Nuts, eggs, fish etc). Whilst parents within a certain class may be asked to refrain from sending nuts for example, the school under the advice of Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) can not claim to be nut free.

3.4. The School will:

3.4.1. Use the information from enrolment forms to identify any children with allergies.

3.4.2. Forward a letter to parents further information about each child’s allergies. Information obtained will be initially collated by the office and then disseminated to teachers.

3.4.3. Encourage parents to present information about their child’s allergy at a staff meeting.

3.4.4. Maintain and monitor an Allergy Station in the office area.

3.4.5. Collect and store all plans in the Allergy Station.

3.4.6. Place photos/information of students with serious allergies in the staffroom.

3.4.7. Ensure that yard duty staff are equipped with photos of students with severe allergies as well as asthma puffers.

3.4.8. Ensure that First Aid kits are suitably equipped for students with allergies.

3.4.9. Ensure that the OOSH program also has sound management practices for supporting students with allergies.

3.4.10. Regularly publish information in the school newsletter that promotes and updates the school community on the management of allergies.

4. EVALUATION

The Policy will be evaluated by teachers and parents through the curriculum sub committee. The principal will annually brief staff on this policy to ensure all practices are being fully implemented. Where new information and practices come to light regarding the management or treatment of students with allergies, this policy will be reviewed and amended where necessary.