Anaphylaxis Risk Minimisation - Food at School

Anaphylaxis is a generalised allergic reaction, which often involves more than one body system (e.g. skin, respiratory, gastro-intestinal and cardiovascular). A severe allergic reaction or anaphylaxis usually occurs within 20 minutes to two hours of exposure to the trigger and can rapidly become life threatening.

Our school ensures risk minimisation with regard to particular foods (peanuts and tree nuts) which can cause an anaphylactic reaction for some children. While departmental policy recommends that we **do not** label the school a nut free zone, we do have in place a number of measures that promote the highest levels of safety for our children.

While most parents are aware if their child has such an allergy, this is not always the case. We therefore ask that parents support us in reinforcing the message that children should only eat food that mum or dad has packed from home. They should not accept food from their peers. We ask parents **not to** send peanut butter on sandwiches, particularly in Kindergarten and Year One. This is due to the higher risk of person to person contact in younger children.

Other measures the school has in place are:

 Teachers are regularly updated in their knowledge of how to recognise signs of a reaction and how to use the adrenaline auto injector (EpiPen® or Anapen®) in an emergency.

 Adrenaline auto injectors are easily and readily accessible.

 We have an individualised action plan and emergency medication for children known to be at risk.

 Children eat in a designated area (usually their classroom) before they go out to play in playground.

 A risk minimisation policy for the school canteen has been implemented. This involves removal of items with the relevant allergens as an ingredient.

 We ask that parents **do not** use nut products for any occasion where food is likely to be shared (such as a class party or birthday). On school camps where there are children with a severe nut allergy, we request that foods containing nuts are not taken or supplied, consistent with the nut minimisation policy in the school canteen.

There is no way to ensure a totally nut or allergen free zone but we believe the measures we have in place are in the best interests of all students.