

# ALLERGY AWARENESS POLICY

## RATIONALE

In the past, schools have pursued a “Peanut Free” policy with regard to the allergic reactions to which some students are susceptible. However, rapidly changing circumstances in this medical field requires a broader policy ambit for the following reasons:

- The increasing proportion of students with allergies
- the increasing variety of allergies amongst students, including allergies to peanuts, other nuts, bees stings, dairy products, eggs and even some fruits and vegetables
- it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to monitor all food products regularly brought to school by all students
- many “allergy free” products have a very similar appearance to those that will induce an allergic reaction, creating a confusing situation for students and teaching staff
- there is no possibility for an “*Allergy Free*” environment
- recent research indicates strongly that schools should pursue an “**Allergy Aware**” policy in preference to a “Peanut Free” policy

Therefore a much more practical and more effective approach is for students and/or their families to develop a heightened *awareness* of their personal “**Sensitivity**” or “**Allergic**” condition and ensure teaching staff have that information at hand on the college campus.

## POLICY

**The College supports the “Allergy Aware” approach to the monitoring and treatment of allergic conditions.**

## MANAGEMENT

### 1 Teachers are required to

- a) regularly reinforce with students that they need to practise on important strategies a daily basis, including
  - not sharing food
  - washing hands after eating
  - cleaning up food spillages
  - placing of disposable containers and food wrappers in bins
- b) educate themselves and their students about the actions to be taken if someone has an allergic reaction
- c) monitor any food brought into the classroom (e.g. for cooking lessons, “birthday treats” provided by the parents, College reward systems) for its potential to cause allergic reactions in susceptible students

### 2 Parents are required to

- a) make the College and its staff members fully aware of their child’s sensitivity or allergy problem *in writing, with the appropriate supportive documentation regarding treatment and contacts:*
  - at the time of enrolment, or
  - as soon as possible after the allergy/sensitivity is diagnosed
- b) address any concerns about their child’s health management to the responsible Associate Principal