

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