

POLICY: CHILDREN WITH ALLERGIES, ANAPHYLAXIS, DIABETES, EPILEPSY AND OTHER MEDICAL CONDITIONS

1 Rationale

At St Michael's Primary School the safety of each student in our care is of paramount importance. The policy reflects the importance that the staff place on ensuring that they are aware of the needs of children in their care and that the school policy provides them with the knowledge required for adequately providing duty of care.

2 Aims

- 2.1 To implement a policy that describes practices that the school has put in place to ensure that all staff are able to identify the children who have a severe allergic reaction, have epilepsy, diabetes or other medical conditions which require monitoring at school or the dispensing of medication.
- 2.2 To liaise with parent/guardian to ensure that children presenting with a medical condition have a clear, precise and documented management plan.

3 Implementation

- 3.1 Parent/guardian to inform the school of the child's medical condition at the time of enrolment or onset of a medical condition.
- 3.2 Parent/guardian to provide the school with a complete recent medical description of their child and steps to be taken in an emergency.
- 3.3 Parent/guardian to work with the school to formulate a management plan which includes completing relevant school documentation.
- 3.4 Parent/guardian to provide the school with the appropriate medication (if required) for their child. This medication is to be kept in the school office unless arrangements have been made for the child to have their medication in the classroom or to carry it with them at all times. Parent to liaise with teacher/office staff as to these arrangements, particularly for children with diabetes or anaphylaxis.
- 3.5 Parent/guardian of children with anaphylaxis need to provide the school with antihistamine and an EpiPen. Please ensure that the antihistamine and EpiPen is replaced before the expiry date. An up-to-date ASCIA plan signed by the child's doctor also needs to be provided.
- 3.6 Parent/guardian of children with diabetes are to ensure their child brings equipment for their needle prick testing and injection via needle or pump each day. Please supply all food (unless it is a canteen order) and an emergency pack every day. Any child who requires a carbohydrate reading to be entered into their pump must have the numbers recorded on their food prior to coming to school. Parent/guardian to provide the school office with additional emergency supplies, e.g. juice, jelly beans, Tiny Teddies.
- 3.7 Parent/guardian to ensure that the child knows to seek assistance from teacher/office staff if they become unwell due to their medical condition.
- 3.8 Parent/guardian to be aware that while the school accepts 'duty of care' it is the primary responsibility of parent/guardian to instruct their child on how best to protect himself/herself.
- 3.9 Children described by this policy need to wear a school hat that has a white ribbon around the crown. The school can provide this ribbon to parents or parents can purchase their own white ribbon. Parent/guardian to stitch the white ribbon to the crown of their child's hat.
- 3.10 Photographs of your child will be placed in the Staffroom, Office, Canteen, Library, First Aid bags, the child's classroom, Sport room and Music room. If your child already attends St Michael's the photos provided by the School photographer will be used. If your child is new to the school, the photograph provided on enrolment will be used or a photograph will be taken of your child once they commence school.
- 3.11 The class teacher will place a picture of the child in the class Emergency children folder, the program and any other documentation that may be used by relief or visiting teachers.

- 3.12 School staff will follow the child's management plan and contact parent/guardian when the child's medication condition varies from the management plan or as needed.
- 3.13 Photographs of severely allergic children, epileptic children, children with diabetes and other medical conditions will be placed in the emergency bags carried by staff while on playground duty.
- 3.14 Parent/guardian to educate their child on the dangers of taking food from any other child, particularly for children with allergies, anaphylaxis or diabetes.
- 3.15 At the beginning of each term, the school will inform through the school newsletter the danger that children with severe allergic reactions face if exposed to certain products.
- 3.16 The policy to be shared with the school community.

4. Evaluation

The policy will be evaluated on an annual basis.