



GERALDTON  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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# Allergy Policy

## VISION STATEMENT

GERALDTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL WILL PROVIDE OUTSTANDING EDUCATION AND A STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY, CULTIVATING PEOPLE OF INTEGRITY, INDEPENDENCE OF MIND AND A LOVE OF LEARNING.

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| <b>Introduction</b>                       | This statement outlines the Geraldton Grammar School policy on the support of students and staff with food allergies at the school. |
| <b>Scope and application</b>              | Policy applies to all employees of Geraldton Grammar School but mainly the policy makers – members of the senior management team    |
| <b>Related legislation and guidelines</b> | No legislation but all AISWA guidelines are used as a format for this policy.   |
| <b>Related Policies</b>                   | Duty of Care, Canteen Management and Nutrition Policy, Anaphylactic Policy  |
| <b>Evaluation</b>                         | Annual  |

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Action</b><br>(issue, reissue, amendment, replacement of pages, etc) | <b>Initials</b> |
|-------------|---|-----------------|
| 26/5/05     | Draft and adopted   | SSW             |
| 5/2/09      | Amended   | SSW             |
| 27/3/13     | Crest amended   | SPN             |
| 27/04/16    | Revised and amended (now Allergy Policy)                                | AFY             |
| 16/03/17    | Revised and amended   | AFY             |

## **ALLERGY POLICY**

### **RATIONALE**

The school recognises that some students may have certain allergies and that in some circumstances the allergies can be of a life-threatening nature.

The foods most likely to cause allergic reactions are peanuts, tree nuts, dairy products, eggs, soy, wheat, fish, and shellfish. While most food allergies produce symptoms that are uncomfortable, for some people allergic reactions are life threatening. Other allergic reactions can occur as a result of, but not restricted to, contact with plants/grasses, medicines, animal dander, Elastoplast or insect bites.

The most common source of food allergies in students is recognised as nuts, which can be found in a wide range of foods, either directly as an identified ingredient or indirectly during the manufacturing process through mixing with other products that may contain nuts.

It is recognised that in severe cases, skin contact with a very small amount of nut based product may be sufficient to cause a severe reaction. In other cases digestion of a product that has been in contact with nut based material has been known to cause a life-threatening reaction.

### **PRINCIPLES**

The school has a genuine concern for the well being of all its students, staff and community members and, where possible, will take steps to ensure that all can enjoy the benefits of the school.

It is recognised that a student with a severe allergy may have difficulty in participating in everyday life without support from other members of the school community.

The school is prepared to place restrictions on other members of the school community if it is necessary to do so in order to provide a reasonable level of participation for an affected member, particularly if that member is a student and particularly also if the condition is life-threatening.

It is recognised that all risks cannot be addressed but the risk of contact with nut based material is something that can be addressed with the support of the school community. It is also recognised that even with the best intent and with established policies, the school cannot fully control what students, staff and community bring onto the campus and therefore cannot be responsible for those things. It can only establish the policies and encourage the school community to support them.

The allergy pamphlet will be distributed to all families at the start of each school year and on enrolment during the year.

## **STUDENT IDENTIFICATION**

At the commencement of each academic year staff are made aware of students who are allergy sufferers. Students who are identified as “at risk” have an action plan sent home to parents/guardians for completion and return. Individual Student Action Plans are held in sick bay in Administration. A laminated *Student Health List/Anaphylactic shock students – EpiPens required and other students with medical concerns* poster with a photograph of the student is placed in each staffroom. Parents/guardians are encouraged via the newsletter to advise the school of any changes to their son/daughter’s Medical Form. Details are updated on the school’s database system as required.

## **POLICY ON NUT PRODUCTS**

The school will not knowingly permit the presence of any product known to contain nuts of any form in the ingredients to be used in the school canteen, Food Technology class or in school prepared meals.

That is, all foods that have nut or nut extract included in the ingredients or suspected of having nuts material in the ingredients may not be processed in those areas or provided for consumption anywhere in the school.

All families are asked to take particular care that should they include nut based products in their students’ lunches or food supplies they should remind those students of the need to carefully wash their hands when they have finished eating.

This exclusion of nut based product does not extend to products such as packeted biscuits that warn that the product may have come into contact with nut based products during manufacture.

Staff are reminded of the necessity to wash their hands after coming into contact with nut based food.

It is acknowledged that the school cannot completely ban such products from the school environment, but parents are asked for their support and vigilance.