



Nut Awareness Policy

2019.1

Rationale

- To provide a safe learning environment for all members of the Nairne School community.
- To raise the awareness of all members of the community regarding severe allergies.
- To continually review awareness of nut allergies in our school.

Strategies

If a student is identified with a nut allergy in a specific class, a sign with the **Nut Free* Zone** logo will be displayed in your child's classroom, and our **Nut Aware Policy** is enacted (see **Stage 2**). If you are unsure of the status of your child's class, please check with your child's teacher. We ask that all staff and parents / caregivers read and follow the Nut Aware Policy to help ensure other students' wellbeing.

Procedures

During 2019, Nairne School is **Nut Aware (Peanut Free*)** School, enacting Stage 2 & 3 procedures.

Stage 1: No formal restrictions

No identified student in the school

- Information placed in newsletter regularly about nut allergies.
- Enrolling parents asked for information about possible allergies.

Stage 2: Class/Learning Area Nut Awareness Measures

On enrolment of an identified student the school will move to stage 2 the Nut Aware Policy.

- A **Nut Free* Zone** poster is displayed in relevant classrooms.
- Parents and caregivers are requested NOT to send food to school that contains nuts (especially peanuts). This includes peanut paste, Nutella, all nuts and cooking oil containing peanut oil, as well as foods containing nuts. This will apply in particular to the Learning Area that the student is in.
- Staff supervise eating at lunch time.
- Students are encouraged NOT to share food.
- Students are encouraged to wash hands after eating.
- Staff participate in training from St John in understanding and dealing with Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions) as the need arises.
- School activities such as fundraising, camps and excursions comply with the Nut Awareness Policy.
- Students bringing food that contains nuts or nut products being asked to eat that food away from any other students and to wash their hands before going to play.

Stage 3: Nut Aware ("Free*") Measures

If Stage 2 measures prove insufficient with an identified student, the school may move to Stage 3 of the Nut Aware Policy.

- Additional to Stage 2 measures, the school may, in consultation with interested parties, enact further measures such as a "Free*" policy on a particular type of nut (eg. Peanuts) for the whole site for a trial period.
- For 2019, in response to a trial in Term 4 2018, Nairne School is a Nut Aware (Peanut Free*) school. This means that **peanuts and peanut-based foods are not to be brought onto the site**, but other nuts are permitted in general, except classrooms where the **Nut Free* Zone** signs are shown and the Nut Awareness Policy is in action.

Publication Date	Version	Revisions	Review Date
Aug 2019	2019.1	2015.1, 2017.1 (Mar) 2019.1 (Aug)	Dec 2019

Promotion

The policy will be promoted by:

- A **Nut Free* Zone** poster will be displayed in relevant classrooms.
- Parents and caregivers being informed via the newsletter and website.
- New families to the school community being informed via Enrolment Information Package/ Website.
- Governing Council being informed and giving approval and support.
- Staff being informed and provided with training opportunities.
- Students being informed via teachers, signs and the newsletter.

**Nairne School acknowledges that due to food processing practices it is impractical to eliminate nuts or nut products entirely from an environment where there is food*

Information

What Happens When a Person Has a Nut or Peanut Allergy?

When a person with a nut or peanut allergy eats a nut, peanut, or a food that contains nuts or peanuts, the immune system unleashes an army of chemicals to protect the body. The release of these chemicals can affect the respiratory system, gastrointestinal tract, skin, and the cardiovascular system – causing allergy symptoms like wheezing, nausea, headache, stomach-ache, and itchy hives.

People with nut and peanut allergies could have a mild reaction – or it could be more severe. People also react differently in terms of how quickly they may have symptoms of an allergy. A reaction to a particular food could take place immediately, or a person may not feel anything until a few hours after eating it. Most reactions last less than a day and may affect any of three body systems;

- Skin- in the form of red, bumpy rashes (hives), eczema or redness and swelling around the mouth.
- Gastrointestinal tract- in the form of belly cramps, diarrhoea, nausea, or vomiting.
- Respiratory tract- symptoms can range from a runny nose, itchy, watery eyes, and sneezing to the triggering of asthma with coughing and wheezing.

People have different allergic reactions to nuts and peanuts. Some people may not even recognise an allergic reaction in fact, people sometimes confuse an allergy with a cold, especially if it's the first time it happens.

In really bad cases, nut and peanut allergies can cause a condition called anaphylaxis. This is a sudden, potentially severe allergic reaction that can involve various systems in the body (such as the skin, respiratory tract, gastrointestinal tract, and cardiovascular system). This can cause a person's blood pressure to drop, airways to narrow, and tongue to swell, resulting in serious breathing difficulty, loss of consciousness, and, in some cases, even death. Anaphylaxis usually occurs minutes after exposure to a triggering substance such as peanut, but some reactions may be delayed by as long as 4 hours.

- Some people may be so sensitive to nuts and peanuts that they get an allergic reaction just from breathing in small particles of that food. If you are one of these people, just being around nuts and peanuts can cause you to have an allergic reaction, even if you don't touch them or know they are there. This is the reason why some people outgrow certain food allergies (like milk or egg allergy) over time, this doesn't usually happen in people who have nut and peanut allergies. But the good news is that, over time, people with nut and peanut allergies usually become really good at avoiding foods that make them sick.

External Links & Resources

Department for Education (Health, e-safety & wellbeing pages)

<https://www.education.sa.gov.au/>

Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergies (Schools page)

<https://allergy.org.au/schools-childcare>