



Policy Title:	Allergens Policy
Version:	1.0
Member of Staff Responsible:	Operations Manager
Approval Level:	Headteacher
Status:	Non-Statutory recommended
Date adopted by Governing Body:	29.11.2023
Cycle of Review:	Annual
Date for next review:	29/11/2024

Change Record

Version	Date	Description of Changes
1.0	29.11.2023	New Policy: adopted NYC HandS model policy

**“Settle College promotes the safeguarding and welfare of children in its care;
all policies support the “Child Protection Policy”**

General Statement

This policy is concerned with a whole school approach to the health care and management of those members of our community suffering from specific allergies.

We are aware that our children may suffer from food, bee/ wasp sting, animal or nut allergies and we believe that all allergies should be taken seriously and dealt with in a professional and appropriate way.

Our position is not to guarantee a completely allergen free environment, rather to minimise the risk of exposure, encourage self-responsibility, and plan for effective response to possible emergencies.

Parents/care givers are asked to provide details of allergies in the student's admission/new starter forms, which are submitted with the Parent Pack before starting school.

General Aims

The intent of this policy is to minimize the risk of any child suffering allergy-induced anaphylaxis whilst at school.

An allergic reaction to nuts is the most common high risk allergy, and as such demands more rigorous controls throughout the policy.

The underlying principles of this policy include;

- The establishment of effective risk management practices to minimise the child, staff, family member and visitor exposure to known trigger foods and insects.
- Staff training and education to ensure effective emergency response to any allergic reaction situation.

This policy applies to all members of the school community:

School Staff, Parents/care givers, Volunteers, Supply staff, Students

Definitions

Allergy - A condition in which the body has an exaggerated response to a substance (e.g. food and drug) also known as hypersensitivity.

Allergen - A normally harmless substance that triggers an allergic reaction in the immune system of a susceptible person.

Anaphylaxis - Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a sudden, severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction to food, stings, bites, or medicines.

EpiPen - Brand name for syringe style device containing the drug Adrenalin, which is ready for immediate inter-muscular administration.

Minimized Risk Environment- An environment where risk management practices (e.g. Risk assessment forms) have minimised the risk of (allergen) exposure.

Health Care Plan - A detailed document outlining an individual child's condition treatment, and action plan for location of EpiPen.

Procedures and Responsibilities for Allergy Management

General

- The involvement of parents/care givers and staff in establishing individual Health Care Plans.
- The establishment and maintenance of practices for effectively communicating a child's healthcare plan to all relevant staff.
- Staff training in anaphylaxis management, including awareness of triggers and first aid procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency.
- Age appropriate education of the children with severe food allergies.

Medical Information

- The school will seek updated information via medical form at the commencement of

each calendar year.

- Furthermore, any change in a child's medical condition during the year must be reported to the school.
- For children with an allergic condition, the school requires parents/care givers to provide written advice from a doctor (GP), which explains the condition, defines the allergy triggers and any required medication.
- The SENCo will ensure that a Health Care Plan is established and updated for each child with a known allergy.
- All members of staff are required to review and familiarise themselves with the medical information.
- Where children with known allergies are participating in school excursions, the risk assessments must include this information.

Medical Information (EpiPens)

Where EpiPens (Adrenalin) are required in the Health Care Plan:

- Parents/care givers are responsible for the provision and timely replacement of the EpiPens.
- The EpiPens are located securely in relevant locations approved by the Headteacher.
- EpiPens will be located so that all adults involved with the child know where they are at all times
- Students are allowed to carry an EpiPen on their person.

The Role of Parents/care givers

Parents/care givers are responsible for providing, in writing, on-going accurate and current medical information to the school.

Parents/care givers must communicate with the school to confirm and detail the nature of the allergy; including:

- The allergen (the substance the child is allergic to)
- The nature of the allergic reaction (from rash, breathing problems to anaphylactic shock)
- What to do in case of allergic reaction, including any medication to be used and how it is to be used. Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from getting into contact with the allergen.
- If a child has an allergy requiring an EpiPen a Health Care Plan must be completed and signed by the parents/care givers.
- It is the responsibility of the parents/care givers to provide the school with up-to-date medication / equipment clearly labelled in the original packaging.
- In the case of life saving medication like EpiPens the child must not attend school without it.
- Parents/care givers are also required to provide up to date emergency contact information.
- Parents/care givers must liaise with the Catering Manager concerning any specific food requirements if the student is to use the school dining facilities
- Parents/care givers should liaise with Staff about appropriateness of any food-related activities (e.g. cooking)

The Role of Staff

Staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with the policy and to adhere to health & safety regulations regarding food and drink.

- If a child's School Admissions Form states that they have an allergy then a Health Care Plan is needed. A risk assessment should be carried out and any actions identified to be put in place. The Assessment should be stored with the child's Health

Care Plan.

- Upon determining that a child attending school has a severe allergy, a team meeting may convened where all staff concerned attend to update knowledge and awareness of child's needs.
- All staff who come into contact with the child will be made aware of what treatment/medication is required by the Headteacher or SENCo and where any medication is stored.
- All staff are to promote hand washing before and after eating.
- The college dining room does not use nuts as an ingredient, but does not guarantee that foods will not contain traces of nuts.
- The college dining room adheres to allergen labelling legislation
- We may ask parents/care givers for a list of food products and food derivatives the child must not come into contact with.
- Emergency medication should be easily accessible, especially at times of high risk.
- Staff should liaise with parents/care givers about snacks and any food-related activities.

Actions

In the event of a child suffering an allergic reaction:

- A First Aider will be called to attend
- The First Aider will delegate someone to contact the child's parents/care givers
- If a child becomes distressed or symptoms become more serious telephone 999
- Keep calm, make the child feel comfortable and give the child space
- If medication is available it will be administered as per training and in conjunction with the Supporting Children with Medical Conditions Policy
- If parents/care givers have not arrived by the time ambulance arrives, a member of staff will accompany the child to hospital
- If a child is taken to hospital by car, two members of staff will accompany them

Role of other parents/care givers

In some instances such as trips involving a child with an allergy, the school may request that food brought by other students should be peanut and nut free.