

# General Information

## ALLERGIES:

### Guidelines for Management of Student Allergies

Devised by School Board 20 May 2014

Allergy management at Our Lady of Mt Carmel is undertaken to ensure all members of the Mt Carmel community can attend and participate in the school environment without their allergy impeding their full involvement in school activities. This is in line with the values, purpose and ethos of Mt Carmel Catholic Primary School.

#### Allergy Management Guidelines:

Mt Carmel staff work in collaboration with parents and students to employ practises and processes for the effective management of allergies when present at school:

- Parents are asked to supply up-to-date Allergy Action Plans signed by the medical doctor managing a student's allergy care.
- Students may purchase and wear allergy alert armbands.
- Students may attach an allergy alert to the brim of their school hat for easy identification in the school yard.
- Parents must supply all allergy medication to the school office for storage in the sick bay.
- Parents can coordinate with administration and teaching staff about the safe storage of medication in classrooms for immediate administering if a student's allergy is severe.
- Parents of students with allergies are encouraged to educate their child to manage their allergy, including recognising the first signs of an allergic reaction and alerting others around them that they need assistance.
- The wider student body is taught the values of tolerance, understanding, sacrifice and an appreciation for the uniqueness of others and their needs through catholic centred allergy awareness education programs.
- Mt Carmel has a harm minimisation approach to allergy management. Mt Carmel asks that all parents and students maintain vigilance to not bring products to school that may trigger an allergic reaction.
- Students are encouraged to wash their hands before and after meal breaks
- Mt Carmel staff and parents educate all students to only eat the food that their parents/guardian have sent for them or ordered from the tuckshop; do not accept food from their peers; and alert a teacher if children are not following this guideline.
- All Mt Carmel staff are trained annually in allergy management, including the administering of an EpiPen.
- Mt Carmel staff are trained in emergency first-aid procedures, the use of equipment and work together as a team to ensure the timely assistance of students in need of care.
- Mt Carmel staff are involved in drills for EpiPen administering where allergic reaction scenarios in various locations throughout the school are enacted, timed and assessed to ensure a quick and effective response should a student have an allergic reaction or develop anaphylaxis and require medication.
- Mt Carmel administration executives ensure relieving staff are aware of students with allergies within their classes.
- Parents of students with Anaphylaxis Management plans are encouraged to heighten vigilance when there is a change from usual routines e.g. excursions, family picnic days at school, sports carnivals or dances, etc.
- The Mt Carmel newsletter will communicate regular reminders of its harm minimisation allergy approach, an example being reminders to refrain from sending nut products to school.

#### Evaluation

These Guidelines for the management of student allergies need to fulfil the mission and vision of Our Lady of Mt Carmel Catholic Primary School and adhere to Brisbane Catholic education directives and legislative guidelines. The guidelines need regular review to ensure that they meet the needs of the school administration and community.

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