AIM
-Minimise the risk of an anaphylactic reaction occurring while the child is in the care of the school
-Ensure that staff members respond appropriately to an anaphylactic reaction by initiating appropriate treatment, including competently administering an EpiPen.

DEFINITION
Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressing allergic reaction involving breathing and/or circulation that is potentially life threatening. It is a medical emergency that requires a rapid response.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF ALLERGIC REACTION

Mild to Moderate
- Swelling of lips, face and eyes
- Hives, welts, body rash and/or itching
- Abdominal pain and/or vomiting
- Complaint of tingling in the mouth

Severe – ANAPHYLAXIS (INvolves breathing and/or circulation)
- Difficulty in breathing or noisy breathing
- Swelling of tongue
- Swelling or tightness of throat
- Difficulty talking or hoarse throat
- Difficulty swallowing, tightness in throat
- Wheezing or persistent cough
- Loss of consciousness and/or collapse
- Young children may appear pale and floppy

MANAGEMENT PLANS
- Parents/carers develop in consultation with staff a management plan for individual students at risk of anaphylaxis and provide a management plan signed by their doctor with an up-to-date photo, yearly. A copy of the plan will be clearly displayed and accessible to staff. Permission is sought for a management plan copy to be provided to the local Bush Nursing Centre.
- Avoidance of any known triggers if possible.
- Determine if allergic reaction is mild, moderate or severe
- Follow individual management plans for students with anaphylaxis risk diagnosed.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
Follow individual management plans for students with diagnosed anaphylaxis risk.
- Follow the child’s Management Plan
- Call ‘000’ for assistance
- Call the Bush Nursing Centre immediately on ‘55701 304’
- If a mild to moderate reaction:
  - Stay with the person and call for help
  - Send someone to locate medications and/or EpiPen if prescribed
  - Give medication (eg antihistamine) if prescribed
  - Contact parent/carer/emergency contact
  - Watch for signs of severe reactions (anaphylaxis) until Bush Nurse/ambulance arrives.
If a Severe reaction:
- Treat the person where you find them and keep them lying down or at a 45 degree angle if breathing is difficult or on their side if vomiting
- Stay with person, call for help and administer EpiPen if available to outer aspect of mid thigh
- If no EpiPen and/or person appears unresponsive, perform DRABC
  - Checks for any dangers to yourself and the person
  - Check for a response
  - If no response, turn person on side and check airway, clear if necessary.
  - If airway clear and breathing normally leave in lateral recovery position.
  - If airway clear, but person is not breathing perform 2 rescue breaths
  - Observe for signs of life (movement, colour, noises) if no vital sign perform CPR at a rate of 30 compression to every 2 breaths.
  - Continue CPR until ambulance arrives and assesses child.

RISK MANAGEMENT
- Allergens/triggers can be ingested, inhaled, injected or placed on the skin. Symptoms may be localised or generalised, and range from mild to severe.
- There are eight foods that account for 95% of allergic reactions: Peanuts, tree nuts (walnuts, almonds, cashews, pistachios, pecans, etc) fish, shellfish, eggs, milk, sesame and soy products.
- Permission is sought for a management plan copy to be provided to the local Bush Nursing Centre
- A practice of reducing risk to a child at risk of anaphylaxis by removing, as far as is practicable, major sources of the allergen and develop strategies to help reduce the risk of anaphylaxis.
- No Food Sharing: The practice where the child at risk from anaphylaxis from a food allergen eat only the food that is supplied or permitted by the parent/carer and does not share food, utensils and containers with or accept other food from any other person. Bottles, drinks and lunch boxes should be clearly labelled.

School Responsibilities:
- Parents/carers asked for information regarding allergies annually and as circumstances change.
- A copy of the child’s management plan will be clearly displayed and accessible to staff.
- Medications, including EpiPens, will be correctly stored in a designated place; ensuring staff know where it is and can access it quickly.
- CPR and Anaphylaxis and EpiPen training will be provided annually for all staff.
- Staff in charge of students at risk of anaphylaxis are responsible for ensuring medication including EpiPen and a copy of the student’s management plan accompany the student on all camps and excursions
- The school community will be made aware of the school’s policy on anaphylaxis through newsletter articles, internet site and parent information events

Parent Responsibilities:
- Inform the school regarding their child’s health needs upon enrolment or diagnosis
- Provide the school with a written individualised management plan signed by a medical practitioner and reviewed and updated annually in consultation with their medical practitioner.
- Provide an EpiPen and/or other medication required for their child
- Replace the EpiPen when it expires or if it is used

This policy was last ratified by School Council in June 2008