



Harrietville Primary School



Harrietville Bush Kinder

Nut Minimisation Policy

Rationale:

Harrietville Primary School and Harrietville Bush Kinder are committed to providing a safe environment that meets the special needs of our students. Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and is potentially life threatening.

Aims:

Students at Harrietville Primary School and Harrietville Bush Kinder have been identified as having severe anaphylactic allergies triggered by peanuts and cashews. The key to preventing an anaphylactic reaction is to avoid exposure to the trigger.

In response, Harrietville Primary School and Harrietville Bush Kinder have developed a nut minimisation policy in line with the Victorian Department of Education and Training's Policy and Procedures. Emergency response plans are in place for all school activities.

Implementation:

It is possible to minimise the risk factors within the school environment with parent/carer assistance in adopting the following strategies:

- Please do not send nuts or peanuts/cashews to school or Kinder. There is an increased risk of other food allergies in peanut/cashew allergic children and because of the risk of cross contamination it is usually recommended that peanut allergic people avoid **all** nuts.
- Please do not send foods containing nuts or peanuts/cashews to school. In particular peanut butter, hazelnut spread (Nutella), certain muesli bars, chocolate bars and biscuits containing nuts. This applies to items with nuts as a listed ingredient, but does not apply to those foods labelled 'may contain traces of nuts'.
- No nut oils such as peanut oil.
- Please avoid nuts and peanuts/cashews in birthday cakes or treats that may be brought to school.
- Please encourage thorough washing of hands and face with a damp cloth if children have eaten these foods before coming to school.
- Provide drink containers and lunch boxes which are clearly labelled with the name of the child for whom they are intended.
- Discourage any trading or sharing of food.
- Continue vigilance when there is a change from usual routines e.g. excursions, shared food days.

A continuing awareness program will be provided through a range of strategies. Support for this initiative will be demonstrated through:

- teaching the children about the need for appropriate health and hygiene when raising awareness of the range of allergic reactions that may affect people in the community;
- highlighting values such as tolerance, understanding and an appreciation for the uniqueness of others and their needs through values education programs; and
- reminders of our allergy friendly approach which will regularly appear in the school newsletters.

Thank you in anticipation of your support of this initiative.