



St Piran's Anaphylaxis Policy

This policy has been written with the advice from the Department for Education and Employment, the Anaphylaxis Campaign and the School Health Service.

St Piran's School recognises that anaphylaxis, an extreme allergic reaction, can occur in school children and welcomes any child with anaphylaxis. St Piran's School encourages children with anaphylaxis to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by school staff and pupils.

Medication and control

In the majority of cases, children with anaphylaxis go through the whole of their school lives without incident. The most common cause is food, in particular nuts, fish and dairy products but also wasp and bee stings. Medication includes antihistamine, adrenaline inhaler or adrenaline injection, depending on the severity of the reaction.

Immediate access to adrenaline injection (EpiPen/Anapen) is vital. Epi/Anapens are allocated to the children to whom they are prescribed. Parents are asked to ensure that the school is provided with at least one labelled spare EpiPen which must be in date and not expired. This will be kept in Matron's room. Epi/Anapens for children in the Nursery and Reception are held in the Nursery and Reception Departments respectively. Whenever the child leaves the school for an outing, Matron will ensure the Epi/Ana pen is placed in the medical bag.

Adrenaline injection, by EpiPen, is easy to administer. Responsibility for administering the injection is on a purely voluntary basis. All volunteers have undertaken training from an appropriate health professional.

Training

Training on EpiPen usage can be given at any time by Matron and will also be addressed each September at INSET Day as required.

Record Keeping

When a child joins the School, the parents are encouraged to tell the School if their child suffers from anaphylaxis for inclusion in the School Medical Register.

School Environment

The school does all that it can to ensure that children with anaphylaxis do not come into contact with allergens and seeks to minimise the risks whenever possible.

St Piran's School has a nut free policy and requests that parents do not send packed lunches for trips containing any nut related foods.

Symptoms of Allergic Reaction

Staff are made aware that one or more of the following symptoms and signs will usually appear within seconds or minutes after exposure to the allergens;-

- **Mild reaction**

Urticaria (nettle rash) over face or whole body and itching

- **Severe reaction;- (anaphylaxis)**

- A metallic taste or itching in the mouth
- Swelling of lips, tongue, throat or face
- Difficulty in swallowing
- Flushed complexion
- Abdominal cramps and nausea
- A rise in heart rate
- Collapse or unconsciousness
- Wheezing or difficulty breathing

Procedures to be followed in the event of an allergic reaction

1. Mild reaction: antihistamine and observation.
2. Severe reaction: administer an adrenaline injection as soon as possible and call an ambulance immediately.

Reviewed: Matrons
Date: June 2015
Next Review Date: September 2016