

# **WEST BYFLEET INFANT SCHOOL**

## **PROTOCOL FOR ANAPHYLAXIS**

**UPDATED February 2013**

### **1. BACKGROUND**

- We have children in school who may suffer an anaphylactic reaction if they eat nuts or products containing nuts.  
*If this occurs they are likely to need medical attention and, in an extreme situation, the condition may be life threatening. However, medical advice is that attention to diet, in particular the exclusion of nuts, together with the availability of emergency medication, are all that is necessary. In all other respects, it is recommended that their education should carry on "as normal".*
- The arrangements set out below are intended to assist the children, their parents and the school in achieving the least possible disruption to their education, but also to make appropriate provision for their medical requirements.

### **2. DETAILS**

- The head teacher will arrange for the teachers and other staff in the school to be briefed about the children's condition and about other arrangements contained in this document.
- The school staff will take all reasonable steps to ensure that the named children do not eat any food items unless they have been prepared/approved by their parents.
- Parents will remind the children regularly of the need to refuse any food items which might be offered to them by other pupils.
- In particular, parents will provide a suitable mid-morning snack and a suitable lunch.
- If there are any proposals which mean that the children may leave the school site, prior discussions will be held between the school and parents in order to agree appropriate provision and safe handling of medication.
- Whenever the planned curriculum involves cookery or experimentation with food items, prior discussions will be held between the school and parents to agree measures and suitable alternatives.
- The school will hold, under secure conditions, appropriate medication, clearly marked for use by designated school staff or qualified personnel and showing an expiry date. The emergency medication will be carried in a bag with a red cross on and will be carried by school staff at all times e.g duty staff carry it at playtimes, teacher and TA when undertaking outdoor PE, school trips etc.

A bottle of PIRITON medicine and two EPIPENS for each child affected are to be held in the school office. The parents accept responsibility for maintaining appropriate up-to-date medication and sign a treatment plan.

### **3. ALLERGIC REACTION**

- In the event of an affected child showing any physical symptoms for which there is no alternative explanation, his/her condition will be immediately reported to the Headteacher/Teacher in charge.

On receipt of such a report, the person in charge, if agreeing that his condition is a cause for concern, will instruct a staff member to contact in direct order of priority;

AMBULANCE - EMERGENCY SERVICES 999

MESSAGE TO BE GIVEN - ANAPHYLAXIS

Then his/her parents

The GP should also be informed in consultation with the parents

- Whilst awaiting medical help the head teacher and designated staff will assess the child's condition and administer the appropriate medication in line with perceived symptoms and following closely the instructions given by the school nurse during the staff training session.
- The following procedure will be followed:

Bad tummy-ache ... itchiness ... irritated ... distressed ... tickly throat  
...rash/reaction on face

CHILD WILL BE GIVEN PIRITON.

Wheeziness ... pale ... drowsy ... having difficulty breathing ... blue lips ... losing consciousness

CHILD WILL BE GIVEN THE EPIPEN ADRENALINE AUTO-INJECTION INTO THE OUTER SIDE OF THE THIGH, MIDWAY BETWEEN KNEE AND HIP. This can be carried out through clothes.

- The child will be sat upright unless getting worse when he will be laid down with his legs up.
- The administration of this medication is safe and even if it is given through a misdiagnosis it will do no harm.
- On the arrival of the qualified medical staff the teacher in charge will appraise them of the medication given to the child. All medication will be handed to the medical person.
- After the incident a debriefing session will take place with all members of staff involved.
- Parents will replace any used medication.

### **4. TRANSFER OF MEDICAL SKILLS**

- Volunteers from the school staff have undertaken to administer the medication in the unlikely event of a child having an allergic reaction.

- A training session led by the school nurse was attended by all school staff.
- Further advice is available to the school staff at any point in the future where they feel the need for further assistance. The medical training will be repeated annually.
- Pens should be checked each term for expiry date. A tick chart should be kept on the wall in the school office. Child will be sent home or parents called if pens have expired.

## **5. AGREEMENT AND CONCLUSION**

- A copy of these notes will be held by the school and the parents. Any necessary revisions will be the subject of further discussions between the school and the parents.

Any changes in routine will be noted and circulated.

### **Conclusion**

A child at risk of anaphylaxis presents a challenge to any school. However, with sound precautionary measures and support from the staff and the doctor responsible, school life may continue as normal for all concerned.

Further information about anaphylaxis and The Anaphylaxis Campaign can be obtained by telephoning The Anaphylaxis Campaign, **01252 542029**.