RATIONALE
Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. Key management strategies are:

- Identification of diagnosed ‘at risk’ students
- Awareness of triggers
- Prevention of exposure to triggers.

Partnerships between schools and parents are important to ensure effective individual management plans for ‘at risk’ students. Adrenaline given through an EpiPen autoinjector to the muscle of the outer thigh is the most effective first-aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

AIMS

- To provide as far as practicable a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of schooling.
- To raise awareness about anaphylaxis and the school's Anaphylaxis Management Policy in the school community.
- To engage with parents/carers of students 'at risk' of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies and management strategies for the student.
- To ensure each staff member has adequate knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the school’s policy and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic emergency.

IMPLEMENTATION

- The Principal should communicate with the school community regarding the school's Anaphylaxis Management Policy, especially the student ‘at risk' grade, level and building module.
- The Principal should ensure that an Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan is developed, in consultation with the student's parents, for any student who has been diagnosed by a medical practitioner at being ‘at risk’ of anaphylaxis.
- This management plan will be in place prior to the child’s first day at school.
- The Anaphylactic management plan will be reviewed
  - annually
  - if the student’s condition changes
  - immediately after a student has an anaphylactic episode
- Casual teaching staff will be informed of students ‘at risk’ of anaphylactic reactions when checking into the office at the commencement of the day. An ASCIA Action Plan with the student’s photo will be kept with the class roll.
- Ensure that an annually updated ASCIA Action Plan and photograph of the ‘at risk’ student be clearly visible in areas such as the classroom, sick bay, canteen and staffroom.
- The Principal should ensure that all staff members are briefed on Anaphylaxis Management once each semester by an anaphylaxis-trained person, as per Ministerial Order 90.
- The school's first aid procedures and student emergency procedure plans (ASCIA Action Plans) should be followed in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

EVALUATION
This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.

This policy was ratified by School Council in December 2008

ATTACHMENTS

- Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan
- ASCIA Action Plan