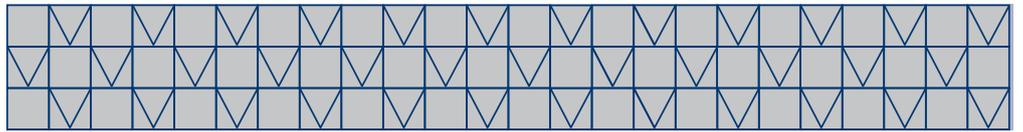




MELBOURNE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
AN ANGLICAN SCHOOL



Nut Awareness Policy

Introduction

There is an identifiable and growing proportion of the community who suffer from an allergy to nuts, which can result in very serious health issues if exposure to nuts or nut products occurs. This policy should be read in conjunction with the MGS Anaphylaxis Policy, which is available on the School Website.

Policy Statement

Melbourne Grammar School cannot declare itself as a totally nut-free environment, but we have a nut awareness policy in which we aim to create a safe community by minimizing nuts and nut products, as far as is reasonable and practical, in the School. The basis of the School's policy is for the onus, particularly for older students at Wadhurst and Senior School, to be on self-management.

Rationale

Medical advice from the Department of Immunology at the Royal Children's Hospital leads us to believe that, in nut-free environments, allergic children and families run a real risk of letting their guard down and thinking that they are in a totally safe environment.

Our goal is to prevent allergic reactions as far as possible and nut awareness is a key part of our strategy. In operating an educational environment, we strongly encourage the families with children with specific allergies to make the School fully aware of these allergies. The primary responsibility for this lies with the family of the allergy sufferer. The family concerned should also endeavour to inform other families with whom their children come into regular contact out of school hours.

Operational Issues

- MGS will maintain a specific database of students with allergies and retain a copy of their treatment plan, as specified by the child's medical practitioner.
- A list of children with a history of anaphylaxis will be made available to all teaching staff. MGS will alert staff to the matter of dealing with allergies through professional development.
- The School will endeavour to educate parents, students and affiliated bodies such as the Old Melburnians Society and the Friends of Grammar of its Nut Awareness Policy. A copy of the Nut Awareness Policy will be placed in the parent handbook, on the School's website and will be placed in School's kitchen/ food preparation areas.
- **Neither Melbourne Grammar School, nor any of its affiliated bodies, will knowingly use peanuts or peanut products in any of its food preparations that are distributed to students. Peanut butter will not be supplied to boarders in the Luxton Dining Hall nor will it be supplied in the School Tuckshops.**
- **MGS families are requested not to provide food for their children to be consumed at school or on camps /excursions which contain nuts or nut products listed on the ingredients of official labels.**

Conclusion

This policy reflects the fact that MGS is aware that there are life-threatening allergies and the School promotes an education and prevention programme which includes first aid and access to emergency medical facilities.