

# Scottsdale High School

## Allergy Aware Policy



Ratified by School Association  
October 2009

Parents must report all allergies to the school so that medical action plans (if required) can be enacted.

This is a reminder to all parents and guardians of our “Allergy Aware” status.

In the best interests of students and staff we have made the unanimous decision to **ban all peanuts, almonds and other nuts and foods containing peanuts** from our school and from all school activities, eg. excursions, camps, carnivals, etc.

### **Under this policy the following foods are excluded:**

- Peanut butter sandwiches or dips and crackers
- Nutella sandwiches or dips
- Biscuits and cakes with nuts in them
- Cereals containing nuts
- Muesli bars with nuts
- Chocolate containing nuts e.g Snickers
- Dried fruit and nut mixes

In support of this policy please check the label on **all** products before bringing them to school.

### **We are not banning products that state:**

- ‘May contain traces of nuts .....’ or
- ‘This product is made on the same equipment or on the same line as products containing peanuts ...’

Some additional facts to ensure we are all aware of this important matter:

- Allergic reactions may be triggered by eating, touching or even inhaling as little as one 200th of a peanut.
- The incidence of anaphylactic shock has doubled in Australia in the past 25 years.
- Schools and pre-schools are greatly affected with more children presenting with symptoms.
- Between 5 and 8% of preschoolers have food allergies. 20% outgrow allergies, for most, food allergy is a life-long hazard.
- Soy and peanuts belong to the same family of legumes and have related proteins. Some research suggests soy-based baby formulas may increase peanut allergies in children.
- Several of the products on the list contain peanut oil - hence they are banned.

Our paramount concern is for the safety and well being of all children in our care. To keep our students safe and well at school, we must all comply with this decision. Teachers will most certainly do everything they can to assist, reinforcing the policy through class discussions and at assemblies. Detailed information is available on the website: <http://www.allergyfacts.org.au/>

We know that you will support us with this decision and do everything you can to make each student’s school life a safe and happy one.