



Allergy Awareness policy

Date: December 2023

Due for Review: December 2024

This policy is implemented as we have children in school with allergies to a variety of food products or materials.

Purpose:

- To provide a safe learning environment for all members of Walton Oak school
- To raise the awareness of all members of the community regarding severe allergies

Management

The Allergy Awareness Policy will be managed by:

- Parents and carers being requested NOT to send food to school that contain products that are life-threatening allergens such as nuts. This includes all types of nut, peanut butter, nutella and food containing nuts). This may be a school-wide request or be class/year group specific depending on the risks associated with specific children. It applies to:
 - lunches brought in from home
 - staff lunches and snacks
 - cake sales etc
 - school events that take place on or off the premises
 - clubs during, before and after school.
- Staff supervising eating at lunchtime.
- Children being encouraged NOT to share food.
- Children being encouraged to wash hands before and after eating.
- Appropriate staff training in understanding and dealing with Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions).
- The school dinner caterers complying with the Allergy Awareness Policy.
- Raising awareness through the strategic placement of posters or signs.

Promotion

The policy will be promoted by:

- A copy of this policy being made available to all parents and caregivers.
- Staff being informed and provided with training opportunities.
- Pupils being informed via teachers, support staff and signs.
- Publication of this policy on the school website.

Allergy Risk Assessment

- As far as is reasonable, children that DO bring in food that contains known allergens will be asked to eat that food away from other students (or specifically affected students) and to wash their hands before going to play.
- Staff will be alert to any obvious signs of nuts being brought in, but they will not inspect all food brought into school.
- Classrooms of children with significant recognised allergies will be deemed "Allergy Aware Classrooms" and display related posters.
- Allergy Action Plans will be kept on pupil files and shared with relevant staff to ensure understanding of individual need, risk and suggested actions if a reaction is suspected.

- Staff working with children who have recognised Allergy Action Plans will take reasonable steps to ensure listed allergens are not accessible within the classroom.
- Materials sourced for use in "Allergy Aware Classrooms" will be checked to ensure known allergens are not present and will then be labelled as "safe" to avoid future uncertainty.
- Photographs of children with allergies are displayed in the staff room and in relevant classroom cupboards and epipens are clearly labelled and stored in an unlocked cupboard in the medical room.
- Although we strive to be a nut-free school, it is impossible to provide an absolute guarantee that no nuts will be brought onto the premises.
- Some other potential allergens, such as egg, are commonplace and additional measures may be required to ensure the safety of affected individuals across a range of situations. These will be agreed on a case by case basis following discussion between the pupil, carers and relevant staff.

Revised: December 2023
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