



# Food Allergy Policy

The Meadow Community Primary School and Pre-School recognises that although most food intolerances produce symptoms that are uncomfortable, some people can suffer a severe food allergy with more serious consequences and in some instances these may even be life threatening. A number of pupils in the school have severe or moderate allergies to food and amongst the most common is nut allergy. The Meadow Community Primary and Pre-School recognises that it has to provide a safe environment and aims to ensure that foods provided, brought in / or produced in the school do not contain nuts as far as is reasonably possible.

The school is committed to pupil safety and therefore has created this policy to reduce the risk of children having allergy related events while in its care.

## Aims

- To reduce the likelihood of a pupil with a known food allergy displaying a severe reaction to a specific food while in school.
- To foster an understanding of and sense of responsibility for the specific needs of the individual members of the school community.
- To create an awareness of the action to take should someone with a severe food allergy display its symptoms.

Parents are required to inform the school of any known food allergies that their child has. This information goes to the school office and kept on record.

Parents should update this information if any allergy is diagnosed at any stage of their child's education.

Parents must advise the school of the action that should be taken if their child develops the symptoms of an allergic reaction while in school.

All members of staff are given the names of children who have specific food allergies through the confidential information sheets issued at the beginning of each school year. Photographs of pupils with severe food allergies are displayed in the staff room.

The school will access training to enable staff to recognise the symptoms of an allergic reaction and to respond appropriately.

A number of staff have been trained in the use of the EPIPEN should a child with a known food allergy go into anaphylaxis.

All parents are asked to ensure that their child does not bring nuts or foods containing nuts into school. This includes snacks, lunch box items and birthday treats. Parents should send fruit or vegetable snacks or snacks that are store bought and have an ingredients list on the food label.

We want to minimise the risk from nuts or foods containing nuts as much as is reasonably possibly.

### **Food provision in school**

The school kitchen does not use nuts, nut oils or nut containing products in the preparation of food; but cannot guarantee that the source of manufacture is completely nut-free. The kitchen is made fully aware of food allergies.

The school does not sell foods that specifically list nut or peanut products on the ingredients list of a food label.

In the case of a pupil with multiple or unusual allergies, the school may require the parent to provide lunches and snacks to ensure the pupil's safety.

The school will attempt to avoid serving nuts or food with nuts, but cannot guarantee that products with nuts will never be present. Likewise, the school cannot monitor products sold at events attended by pupil's offsite or served on trips. But will do all that it can to minimise risk.

The school community groups will not bring nuts into school, or nut containing products, intentionally; this is part of the hiring agreement for community groups.

The Meadow Community Primary School and Pre-School cannot guarantee that there will be nothing in the school that might trigger an allergic reaction or that a pupil or adult will never experience an allergy related event while at school. With effort and care we can, however, try together to ensure a safe environment for all our community which keeps risks to a minimum.

## Extract from Children's Food Trust

Individual schools, or local authorities, may choose to remove nuts from their menus and have policies preventing nuts from being brought onto the school premises, if they feel that this is in the interest of their school community. This approach is common in primary schools, where they are less likely to have vending machines in place. Young pupils may not be mature enough to be responsible for managing their condition by avoiding allergens, and so by limiting their availability at school, this may reduce the number of allergy related incidents. Schools may feel that by prohibiting nuts on site, the school would be a nut-free environment, and so reduce the risk of any allergic reactions. However, this approach may induce a false sense of security for those pupils with a nut allergy, and does not teach pupils avoidance strategies for outside of school where they may come in contact with nuts. Also, from the school's perspective, there is no absolute guarantee that a nut ban will ensure there are no nuts on the school premises.

Nut bans may not always be the most appropriate approach. An alternative solution is to create awareness across the whole school on how to manage the risk of allergic reactions from nuts'.

*However, at The Meadow we request parents do not send nuts into school with their child.*

September 2017

Agreed by the Local Governing Body on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Lilley', is written over a thin horizontal line. The signature is enclosed within a rectangular box.

Mr Steve Lilley Chair of the Local Governors

To be reviewed in September 2020