



Nut & Other Allergy Policy

Review frequency: Annually

Date approved: June 2022

Approved by: N Bridges (Headteacher)

Robin Hood Primary School Nut and other Allergy Policy



(This policy should be read in conjunction with the School's First Aid policy.)

Introduction:

ANAPHYLAXIS is a severe allergic reaction at the extreme end of the allergic spectrum, affecting the entire body, and can occur within minutes of exposure. The main causes are attributed to nuts, seeds and seafood. This policy focuses on the management of **nut allergies**.

One approach to reduce the incident of anaphylaxis could be to ban nuts from Robin Hood Primary School; however, the Anaphylaxis Campaign highlights a number of problems with this approach as follows:

It would be impossible to provide an absolute guarantee that the School is nut free, given that:

- pupils regularly bring in food from home and food items bought on the way to School
- There would be a risk that children with allergies might be led into a false sense of security
- There is a strong case to be argued that children with food allergies will develop a better awareness and understanding of how to manage their allergies if they grow up in an environment where allergens are regularly present.

However to manage risk most effectively within our school community, at Robin Hood we are going to be clear with pupils, parents, visitors and staff that nuts are discouraged from being brought into school.

Policy

Our catering service uses food supplied entirely through Nottingham City Education Catering Service Please see below:

"All our school and academy kitchens are nut free. Most of our food is cooked using fresh ingredients and our recipes are nut free. However, some of the products we use state, "may contain nuts or prepared in a factory that uses nuts", this is general practice in industry and to not use these products would be very restrictive. We therefore advise our Catering Supervisors not to give those children they know have a nut allergy any of these products. To ensure that any child with allergies and intolerances, such as nuts, is catered for safely we stipulate that a confirmation letter from the hospital dietician or GP is sent to us, before they stay for a meal. This ensures the details are recorded and the Catering Supervisor is advised of the child's requirements."

Within the catering facilities at Robin Hood, we take precautions to minimise the risk of anaphylaxis and other allergenic reactions occurring:

- We never knowingly use any nuts (including pine nuts and peanuts) or sesame seeds and associated nut/sesame products in our kitchens.
- Pupils who are known to have food allergies (eg nuts, egg, milk, gluten, fish, molluscs, crustaceans) are introduced to key members of the catering team, on their first day at the school, and are encouraged to seek guidance from catering staff – on a daily basis, if necessary – on what they can have, from the menu, for lunch.

- Their photograph is displayed in the serving area for all serving staff to see and MDS staff / teaching staff are aware of children who have allergies. ALL staff are aware of children throughout school who carry epi-pens in the possible treatment of anaphylaxis.
- There are no other foods given to pupils on a daily basis apart from fresh fruits.

Whilst most allergic reactions are the result of food ingestion, we recognise, too, that severe allergic reactions can occur as a result of individuals being susceptible to airborne allergens. Allergic reactions can also be triggered by touching surfaces – such as computer or piano keyboards which may have been inadvertently contaminated.

The success of minimising anaphylaxis risk – and all other allergenic reactions - requires the cooperation of pupils, staff and parents. Parents/carers are asked not to provide pupils with snacks and cakes (birthdays are potentially high risk occasions) that contain nuts and sesame seeds. A written reminder will be communicated to parents/carers at least once each year.

At after school event such as Fairs or fund raising events parents/carers are expected to supervise their children carefully as there may be cake stalls and food stall providers from outside the school. (for example an ice cream van)

Staff are asked not to bring into the classroom any foodstuffs containing nuts and to wash their hands thoroughly after consuming such foods brought for their own consumption from home. (eg a snackbar to have at coffee time)

It is essential that the school has full details of all our pupils' allergies. This information is requested by the school, and must be provided by parents/carers when their child joins the school and then updated by parents if allergies are discovered at a later stage. An annual reminder will go out to parents re updating a child's Care Plan which will have details of allergies and expected actions to prevent anaphylaxis detailed on it.

The class teacher should be provided with a treatment plan and EpiPen, clearly marked with the child's name. The teacher and the parent will at the earliest opportunity meet together to complete a care plan. A copy of medical confirmation of the allergy must be presented here. This plan will be updated at least annually. On this plan, there will be expectations of what must happen if a child is put in a situation where they or an adult see themselves at risk. These expectations will be communicated to all staff. Incidents of pupils put "at risk" will be recorded and parents informed. Action will be taken to prevent future incidents occurring.

In some cases, the school Special Needs Coordinator will liaise directly with parents on a regular or occasional basis.

All medicines must be registered at the school office, where an administration sheet will be provided for whoever administers the medicine to sign and date each time a dose is given. It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to keep the medication up to date.

If medication needs to be close to the child, such as in the case of an EpiPen, it must be kept in a safe place in the classroom, labelled clearly with the child's name and the date it was issued. It should be kept in its own transparent, zipped folder or rucksack. The responsible adult must carry this out of school if the child is on a school trip or visit. If the child is mature enough they will manage their own epi pen and carry it around school with them in a zip bag / rucksack when practical. Eg at lunchtimes or playtimes.

When the school provides packed lunches for trips away, catering staff are provided with a list of pupils

who have allergies and specially labelled packed lunches are provided, accordingly. When pupils take part in single or multi-day school trips, participating pupils' allergies, their respective treatments and other associated requirements are factored into the planning and risk assessment process.

Whilst the school will exercise all due care and attention to minimise risk, pupils are expected to become more independent at self-managing their allergy, too, having an understanding of;

- Foods which are safe or unsafe
- When to ask staff to change (self-service) serving utensils, if they think cross-contamination has taken place
- Their specific symptoms, if an allergic reaction occurs
- Their responsibility to know where their EpiPen is kept
- Who to advise, if and when an allergic reaction happens. What action they know to take if they feel they are at risk of being exposed to allergies.
- Letting friends and staff know about their allergy, in case of emergency
- When to seek guidance (and from whom) – if in doubt

To support parents, this advice, along with a register of staff who are EpiPen trained is to be found on the school website under Keeping Safe and also under SEND.

H Crawford

To be reviewed

June 2023