



Nut-free Policy

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Introduction

Castlehead High School strives to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all members of the school community. For this reason, this policy is to be adhered to by all staff members, parents and pupils, with the intention of minimising the risk of anaphylaxis occurring whilst at school due to nut allergies. To effectively implement this policy and ensure the necessary control measures are in place, parents are responsible for working alongside the school in identifying allergens and potential risks, to ensure the health and safety of their children.

The school does not guarantee a completely nut-free environment, however this policy will be utilised to minimise the risk of exposure to nuts, encourage self-responsibility, and plan for an effective response to possible emergencies.

1. Legal framework

1.1 This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

The Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2017

1.2 This policy has due regard to all relevant guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Department of Health (2017) 'Guidance on the use of adrenaline auto-injectors in schools'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'

1.3 This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies and documents:

- Administering Medicines Policy
- Educational Visits and School Trips Policy
- First Aid Policy



2. Definitions

- 2.1 **Allergy** – is a condition in which the body has an exaggerated response to a substance. This is also known as hypersensitivity.
- 2.2 **Allergen** – is a normally harmless substance that triggers an allergic reaction for a susceptible person.
- 2.3 **Allergic reaction** – is the body's reaction to an allergen and can be identified by, but not limited to, the following symptoms:
- Hives
 - Generalised flushing of the skin
 - Itching and tingling of the skin
 - Tingling in and around the mouth
 - Burning sensation in the mouth
 - Swelling of the throat, mouth or face
 - Feeling wheezy
 - Abdominal pain
 - Rising anxiety
 - Nausea and vomiting
 - Alterations in heart rate
 - Feeling of weakness
- 2.4 **Anaphylaxis** – is also referred to as anaphylactic shock, which is a sudden, severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. This kind of reaction may include the following symptoms:
- Persistent cough
 - Hoarse voice
 - Difficulty swallowing, or swollen tongue
 - Difficult or noisy breathing
 - Persistent dizziness
 - Becoming pale or floppy
 - Suddenly becoming sleepy, unconscious or collapsing

3. Roles and responsibilities

- 3.1 The Child Protection Co-ordinator is responsible for:
- Ensuring that staff receive allergy and anaphylaxis training bi-annually.
 - Monitoring the effectiveness of this policy and reviewing it on an annual basis, and after any incident where a pupil experiences an allergic reaction.
 - Ensuing that all members of staff have read this policy and understand the emergency procedures within it.
- 3.2 The Head Teacher is responsible for:
- Ensuring the school environment is as nut-free as possible.
 - The development, implementation and monitoring of this policy.
 - Ensuring that parents are informed of their responsibilities in relation to their child's allergies.



- Ensuring that all school trips are planned in accordance with the Educational Visits and School Trips Policy, taking into account any potential risks the activities involved pose to pupils with known allergies.
- Ensuring that the Whole-School Food Policy and the associated protocols are effectively implemented, including those in relation to labelling foods that may contain nuts.
- Ensuring that all designated first aiders are trained in the use of adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) and the management of anaphylaxis.
- Ensuring that all staff members are provided with information regarding anaphylaxis, as well as the necessary precautions and action to take.
- Ensuring that catering staff are aware of, and act in accordance with, the school's policies regarding food and hygiene, including this policy.
- Ensuring that catering staff are aware of any pupils' allergies which may affect the school meals provided.

3.3 All staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring that they do not bring any products containing nuts into the school.
- Acting in accordance with the school's policies and procedures at all times.
- Attending relevant training regarding allergens and anaphylaxis.
- Being familiar with and implementing pupils' individual healthcare plans as appropriate.
- Responding immediately and appropriately in the event of a medical emergency.
- Reinforcing effective hygiene practices, including those in relation to the management of food.
- Promoting hand washing before and after eating.
- Monitoring all food supplied to pupils by both the school and parents, including snacks, ensuring food containing nuts is not provided.
- Ensuring that pupils do not share food and drink in order to prevent accidental contact with nuts.
- Ensuring that any necessary medication is out of the reach of pupils but still easily accessible to staff members.
- Liaising with the school nurse and pupils' parents to ensure the necessary control measures are in place.
- Informing the headteacher if they have an allergy to nuts.

3.4 The First aider is responsible for:

- Responding to incidents of anaphylaxis in accordance with the First Aid Policy.
- Maintaining the Allergy Pupil Log and ensuring staff know where it can be located.
- Providing first aid and anaphylaxis training to all members of staff on an annual basis.
- Liaising with paramedics, should they be called to respond to an incident of anaphylaxis.
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3.5 The school business manager is responsible for:



- Ensuring that there are effective processes in place for medical information to be regularly updated and disseminated to relevant staff members, including supply and temporary staff.
- Seeking up-to-date medical information about each pupil via a medical form sent to parents on an annual basis, including information regarding any allergies.
- Contacting parents for required medical documentation regarding a child's nut allergy.
- Ensuring that the necessary staff members are informed about pupils' nut allergies.
- Understanding the action to take and processes to follow in the event of a pupil going into anaphylactic shock and ensuring that this information is passed onto staff members.

3.6 Parents/carers are responsible for:

- Notifying the school office of the following information:
- Whether their child is allergic to nuts
- What medication to administer should an allergic reaction occur
- Specified control measures and what can be done to prevent the occurrence of an allergic reaction
- Keeping the school up to date with their child's medical information.
- Providing the school with up-to-date emergency contact information.
- Providing the school with written medical documentation, including instructions for administering medication as directed by their child's doctor.
- Providing the school with written details regarding their child's nut allergy.
- Working alongside the school to accommodate their child's needs, as well as undertaking the necessary risk assessments.
- Acting in accordance with any allergy-related requests made by the school, such as not providing nut-containing items in their child's packed lunch.
- Ensuring their child is aware of allergy self-management, including being able to identify their allergy triggers and how to react.
- Providing a supply of 'safe' snacks for any individual attending school events.
- Raising any concerns they may have about the management of their child's allergies with the school business manager.
- Ensuring that any food their child brings to school is safe for them to consume.
- Liaising with staff members, including those running breakfast and afterschool clubs, regarding the appropriateness of any food or drink provided.

3.7 Pupils are responsible for:

- Ensuring that they do not exchange food with other pupils.
- Avoiding food which they know they are allergic to, as well as any food with unknown ingredients.
- Being proactive in the care and management of their allergies.
- Notifying a member of staff immediately if they believe they are having an allergic reaction, even if the cause is unknown.



- Notifying a member of staff when they believe they may have come into contact with something containing nuts.
- Learning to recognise personal symptoms of an allergic reaction.
- Keeping necessary medications in an agreed location that members of staff are aware of.
- Developing greater independence in keeping themselves safe from allergens.
- Notifying a staff member if they are being bullied or harassed as a result of their nut allergy.
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4. Prohibited foods

- 4.1 The school is committed to ensuring our pupils with nut allergies are not at risk of an allergic reaction
- 4.2 All food products containing nuts are prohibited. The school expects parents to check food products when preparing pupils' lunches and snacks.
- 4.3 Parents, pupils and staff will be mindful that the following food products are prohibited:
- Cereal bars
 - Peanut butter sandwiches
 - Packs of nuts
 - Chocolate bars containing nuts
- 4.4 In addition to the list above, food packaging that states a product contains nuts, or is unsuitable for people with nut allergies, means that the product will be considered prohibited.
- 4.5 The school will not knowingly use nuts in any school-prepared meals.
- 4.6 Staff will not bring products containing nuts into the school.
- 4.7 Any prohibited items will be removed, and a nut-free alternative will be provided.

Nut allergies

- 5.1 Parents will inform the school that their child is allergic to nuts, as well as the necessary action to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction, such as any medication required.
- 5.2 Information regarding all pupils' nut allergies will be collated, indicating whether they consume a school dinner or a packed lunch, and this will be passed onto the school's catering service.
- 5.3 The school's catering service will be requested to eliminate nuts, and food items with nuts as ingredients, from meals as far as possible, including foods which are labelled 'may contain traces of nuts'.
- 5.4 The catering team will ensure that general good practice hygiene standards are maintained, in accordance with the **school's Health and Safety Policy**.
- 5.5 There is a set of kitchen utensils that will be used to prepare the food and drink of the pupils at risk.
- 5.6 Food items containing nuts will not be served at, or be brought onto, the school premises.



- 5.7 The chosen catering service of the school will be responsible for ensuring that the school's policies are adhered to at all times, including those in relation to the preparation of food, taking into account any allergens.
- 5.8 In accordance with the Health and Safety Policy, the school will ensure the safety of staff with allergies to nuts.

6. Staff training

- 6.1 Staff members will receive appropriate training and support relevant to their level of responsibility, to assist pupils with managing their allergies.
- 6.2 The school will arrange specialist training on an annual basis where a pupil in the school has been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis.
- 6.3 Designated staff members will be taught to:
- Recognise the range of signs and symptoms of severe allergic reactions.
 - Respond appropriately to a request for help from another member of staff.
 - Recognise when emergency action is necessary.
 - Administer AAls according to the manufacturer's instructions.

7. Emergency response

- 7.1 Parents will provide the school with any necessary medication, ensuring that this is clearly labelled with the pupil's name, class, expiration date and instructions for administering it.
- 7.2 Pupils will not be able to attend school or educational visits without any life-saving medication that they may have, such as AAls.
- 7.3 All members of staff involved with a pupil with a known nut allergy will be aware of the location of emergency medication and the necessary action to take in the event of an allergic reaction.
- 7.4 Any specified support that the pupil may require will be outlined in their Childs plan.
- 7.5 All staff members providing support to a pupil with a known medical condition, including those in relation to allergens, will be familiar with the pupil's Childs plan.
- 7.6 The DHT Pupil Support is responsible for working alongside relevant staff members and parents to develop Childs plans for pupils with allergies, ensuring that any necessary support is provided, and the required documentation is completed, including risk assessments being undertaken.



- 7.7 Mild-moderate symptoms of an allergic reaction include the following:
- Swollen lips, face or eyes
 - Itchy/tingling mouth
 - Hives or itchy skin rash
 - Abdominal pain or vomiting
 - Sudden change in behaviour
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- 7.8 If any of the above symptoms occur in a pupil, the nearest adult will stay with the pupil and call for help.
- 7.9 Where there is any delay in contacting designated staff members, or where delay could cause a fatality, the nearest staff member will administer the AAI.
- 7.10 The pupil's parents will be contacted immediately if a pupil suffers a mild-moderate allergic reaction, and if an AAI has been administered.
- 7.11 If a pupil without a prescribed AAI, or who has not been medically diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis, suffers an allergic reaction, a designated staff member will contact the emergency services and seek advice as to whether an AAI should be administered. An AAI will not be administered in these situations without contacting the emergency services.
- 7.12 For mild-moderate allergy symptoms, the AAI will usually be sufficient for the reaction; however, the pupil will be monitored closely to ensure the reaction does not progress into anaphylaxis.
- 7.13 The headteacher will ensure that any designated staff member required to administer an AAI has appropriate cover in place, e.g. if they were teaching a class at the time of the reaction.

Anaphylaxis

- 7.14 Anaphylaxis symptoms include the following:
- Persistent cough
 - Hoarse voice
 - Difficulty swallowing, or swollen tongue
 - Difficult or noisy breathing
 - Persistent dizziness
 - Becoming pale or floppy
 - Suddenly becoming sleepy, unconscious, or collapsing
- 7.15 In the event of anaphylaxis, the nearest adult will lay the pupil flat on the floor with their legs raised and will call for help from a designated staff member via a two-way radio system.
- 7.16 The designated staff member will administer an AAI to the pupil. Spare AAIs will only be administered if appropriate consent has been received.
- 7.17 Where there is any delay in contacting designated staff members, the nearest staff member will administer the AAI.
- 7.18 A copy of the Register of AAIs will be held in each classroom for easy access in the event of an allergic reaction.
- 7.19 If necessary, other staff members may assist the designated staff members with administering AAIs.
- 7.20 The emergency services will be contacted immediately.



- 7.21 A member of staff will stay with the pupil until the emergency services arrive – the pupil will remain flat and still.
- 7.22 The headteacher will be contacted immediately, as well as a suitably trained individual, such as a first aider.
- 7.23 If the pupil stops breathing, a suitably trained member of staff will administer CPR.
- 7.24 If there is no improvement after five minutes, a further dose of adrenaline will be administered using another AAI, if available.
- 7.25 A designated staff member will contact the pupil's parents as soon as is possible.
- 7.26 Upon arrival of the emergency services, the following information will be provided:
- Any known allergens, including nuts, the pupil has
 - The possible causes of the reaction, e.g. nuts
 - The time the AAI was administered – including the time of the second dose, if this was administered
- 7.27 Any used AAI's will be given to paramedics.
- 7.28 Staff members will ensure that the pupil is given plenty of space, moving other pupils to a different room where necessary.
- 7.29 Staff members will remain calm, ensuring that the pupil feels comfortable and is appropriately supported.
- 7.30 A member of staff will accompany the pupil to hospital in the absence of their parents.
- 7.31 Following the occurrence of an allergic reaction, the governing board, in conjunction with the school nurse, will review the adequacy of the school's response and will consider the need for any additional support, training or other corrective action.

8. Monitoring and review

- 8.1 The headteacher is responsible for reviewing this policy annually.
- 8.2 The next scheduled review date is Autumn 2024.
- 8.3 The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored and evaluated by all members of staff. Any concerns will be reported to the headteacher immediately.