

Whickham Parochial Church of England Primary School



Allergies Policy including nut and food allergy

'I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness'
John 10:10

Mission Statement

At our Parochial school we aim to provide a stimulating and caring environment in which every child flourishes, with Christianity at the heart of all we do.

Aims

At Whickham Parochial we believe that every child is entitled to enjoy their childhood, celebrate their individuality and reach their full potential. We aim to do this through:

- Creating a caring school family living by Christian values.
- Celebrating everyone's strengths and efforts.
- Valuing the opportunities we have to contribute to our community and the wider world.
- Offering wide ranging quality experiences that stimulate children's minds.
- Encouraging respect for others, positive behaviour and good manners, enabling all children to feel secure and valued.
- Building strong links between school, home and church.
- Preparing children for future challenges in a changing world

We wish every child to take with them happy memories of Whickham Parochial into their future life.



Aims and objectives

Whickham Parochial Primary School is aware that children who attend may suffer from food, bee/wasp sting, animal or nut allergies and we believe that all allergies should be taken seriously and dealt with in a professional and appropriate way. Our school's position is not to guarantee a completely allergen free environment, rather: to minimise the risk of exposure, encourage self-responsibility, and plan for effective response to possible emergencies.

The intent of this policy is to minimize the risk of any child suffering allergy-induced anaphylaxis whilst at school.

An allergic reaction to nuts is the most common high-risk allergy, and as such demands more rigorous controls throughout the policy.

The underlying principles of this policy include:

- The establishment of effective risk management practices to minimise the student, staff, parent and visitor exposure to known trigger foods and insects.
- Staff training and education to ensure effective emergency response to any allergic reaction situation.

Statutory requirements

The Statutory Framework states that the provider must obtain information about any dietary requirements/allergy. As such families are asked to provide details of allergies in the child's School Admissions Forms, which are submitted before starting school.

Procedures and Responsibilities for Allergy Management

- The involvement of parents and staff in establishing individual Health Care Plans.
- The establishment and maintenance of practices for effectively communicating a child's healthcare plans to all relevant staff.
- Staff training in anaphylaxis management, including awareness of triggers and first aid procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency.
- Age appropriate education of the children with severe food allergies.

Medical Information

- The school will seek updated information via medical form at the commencement of each calendar year.
- Furthermore, any change in a child's medical condition during the year must be reported to the school by parents/carers.
- For students with an allergic condition, the school requires parents /carers to provide written advice from a doctor (GP), which explains the condition, defines the allergy triggers and any required medication.
- Teachers and teacher assistants of those students and key staff are required to review and familiarise themselves with the medical information.
- Medical information with a recent photograph for any students with allergies will be posted in relevant rooms with parental permission.
- Where students with known allergies are participating in school excursions, the risk assessments must include this information.



- The wearing of a medic-alert bracelet is allowed by the school.
- Parents/ guardians are responsible for the provision and timely replacement of the EpiPens.
- The EpiPens are located securely in relevant locations and these locations will be made known to all staff.

Staff

Staff and volunteers must ensure they do not bring in or consume nut products in school and ensure they follow good hand washing practice. Caution must be taken at certain times of year such as Easter and Christmas. If staff distribute confectionary, care must be taken to ensure that no nuts are included in the product. All product packaging must be checked for warnings directed at nut allergy sufferers and **if displayed, the product must not be used in school.**

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers must notify staff of any known or suspected allergy to nuts and provide all medical and necessary information. This will be added to the child's care plan and, if necessary, a meeting organised with the school nurse. Homemade snacks or party food contributions must have a label detailing all ingredients present and the kitchen environment where the food was prepared must be nut free. If you are unsure about a selection please speak to a staff member before bringing the food item into school. The school requests that parents and carers observe the nut-free policy and therefore do not include nuts, or any traces of nuts, in packed lunches.

Packed Lunches

If parents choose to send a packed lunch for their child, or when packed lunches are required for an educational visit or other event, all contents must be nut free. This means that labelling should be checked and, if the word 'nuts' is present anywhere on the ingredients – even as “may contain traces of...”, that item must not be sent into school.

Children

All children are regularly reminded about the good hygiene practice of washing hands before and after eating which helps to reduce the risk of secondary contamination. Likewise, children are reminded and carefully supervised to minimise the act of food sharing with their friends.

Health Care Plans and Emergency Response

We have individual Healthcare plans for children with allergies and Allergy Lists are displayed highlighting Healthcare plans in place, triggers, medication (Medication will be stored, administered and documented in accordance with our Administering Medicine Policy)

In the event of a child suffering an allergic reaction:

- We will delegate someone to contact the child's families.
- We will follow procedures set out in the child's Health Care Plan and administer medication as required and in conjunction with the medication policy.
- If a child becomes distressed or symptoms become more serious telephone 999.
- If families have not arrived by the time ambulance arrives, a member of staff will accompany the child to hospital.
- If a child is taken to hospital by car, two members of staff will accompany them.



Conclusion

This policy is in line with other school policies and therefore should be read in conjunction with the following:

Special Educational Needs Policy

Medicine Policy

Health and Safety Policy

This policy will be reviewed every three years or in the light of changes to legal requirements.

Mrs R Walton

October 2022

