

Mickle Trafford Village School



Food Allergy and Nut Free Policy

Date of policy	Summer 2023
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Signed Head Teacher	

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Statement of intent

Mickle Trafford Village School strives to ensure the safety and well-being 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 food and medication 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 free environment of all allergens; however, this policy will be utilised to minimise the risk of exposure to allergens, encourage self-responsibility, and plan for an effective response to possible emergencies. MTVS is a nut-free school and is highly vigilant to any products containing nuts being brought into school.

1. Legal Framework

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

- The Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2017
- The Food Information (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2019 (Natasha's Law)

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'

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

- Health and Safety Policy
- First Aid Policy - including managing medicines & child health in school
- Positive Handling Policy
- Hutchison Catering Policy for Educational visits and Off site Activity

2. Definitions

Allergy – is a condition in which the body has an exaggerated response to a substance. This is also known as hypersensitivity.

Allergen – is a normally harmless substance that triggers an allergic reaction for a susceptible person.

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

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

The governing body is responsible for:

- Ensuring that relevant staff receive allergy and anaphylaxis training at least annually. This can be completed via The National College for no First Aiders. Ensuring that catering staff receive Kitchen Food Safety in Catering training every three years.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of this policy and reviewing it on an annual basis and after any incident where a pupil experiences an allergic reaction.
- Ensuring that all members of staff have read this policy and understand the emergency procedures within it.

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 Hutchison Catering Policy for Educational visits and Off site Activity, taking into account any potential risks the activities involved pose to pupils with known allergies.
- 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. **This can be completed via The National College for no First Aiders.**
- 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.

All staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring that they do not bring any products containing nuts into the school.
- Aware of allergies within their class and ensure teaching activities such as cooking/treat days are safe for these children.
- 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 (IHPs) 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, gluten, dairy, soya or any other allergy.
- Ensuring that any necessary medication is out of the reach of pupils but still easily accessible to staff members.
- Liaising with relevant staff and pupils' parents to ensure the necessary control measures are in place and medication in school is up to date.
- One EpiPen should be kept in the classroom and one in a box in the staffroom. Pens should be labelled with a photograph.

- All staff should add their name to the school allergy list and ensure their Epipen is in the staffroom if needed.

First aiders are responsible for:

- Responding to incidents of anaphylaxis in accordance with the First Aid Policy.
- Providing first aid and anaphylaxis training to relevant members of staff on an annual basis.
- Liaising with paramedics, should they be called to respond to an incident of anaphylaxis.

The admin staff are 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. An up-to-date allergy list can be found on Google Drive.
- 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 food allergy.
- Ensuring that the necessary staff members are informed about pupils' 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.

Parents are responsible for:

Notifying the school of the following information:

- Whether their child is allergic to nuts or any other food sources.
- What medication to administer should an allergic reaction occur and an outline of the most recent symptoms.
- 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 written consent for the use of a spare AAI.
- 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 any necessary medication.
- Communicating to the school any specific control measures that can be implemented to prevent the child from coming into contact with nuts or other food sources.
- Providing the school with written details regarding their child's allergy.
- Working alongside the school to develop an IHP to accommodate their child's needs, as well as undertaking the necessary risk assessments.
- Signing their child's IHP, where required.
- 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 classroom teacher.
- 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.

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.
- 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 allergy.

4. Prohibited foods

The school is committed to ensuring our pupils with food allergies are not at risk of an allergic reaction.

All food products containing nuts are prohibited. The school expects parents to check food products when preparing pupils' lunches and snacks.

Parents, pupils and staff will be mindful that the following food products are prohibited:

- Cereal bars containing nuts
- Peanut butter sandwiches
- Packs of nuts
- Chocolate bars containing nuts

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.

The school will not use nuts in any school-prepared meals.

Staff will not bring products containing nuts into the school.

Any prohibited items will be removed, and a nut-free alternative will be provided.

Allergies to other food sources such as dairy, gluten, soya or shell fish will be monitored to avoid contact for individuals.

5. Food allergies

Parents will inform the school that their child is allergic or intolerant to any food sources, as well as the necessary action to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction, such as any medication required.

Information regarding all pupils' 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.

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'. Children with other food allergies will be catered for individually.

The catering team will ensure that general good practice hygiene standards are maintained, in accordance with the school's Health and Safety Policy.

Food items containing nuts will not be served at, or be brought onto, the school premises.

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.

Learning activities that involve the use of food, such as food technology lessons, will be planned in accordance with pupils' IHPs, taking into account any known nut allergies of the pupils involved.

In accordance with the Health and Safety Policy, the school will ensure the safety of staff with allergies to nuts.

6. Staff training

In accordance with the First Aid Policy (including managing medicines & child health in school), staff members will receive appropriate training and support relevant to their level of responsibility, to assist pupils with managing their allergies.

The school will arrange specialist training where a pupil in the school has been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis.

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.
- Make appropriate records of allergic reactions.

All staff members will:

- Be trained to recognise the range of signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction to food.
- Understand how quickly anaphylaxis can progress to a life-threatening reaction, and that anaphylaxis can occur with prior mild-moderate symptoms.
- Understand that AAls should be administered without delay as soon as anaphylaxis occurs.
- Understand how to check if a pupil is on the Register of AAls.
- Understand how to access AAls.
- Understand who the designated members of staff are, and how to access their help.

- Understand that it may be necessary for staff members other than designated staff members to administer AAls, e.g. in the event of a delay in response from the designated staff members, or a life-threatening situation.
- Be aware of how to administer an AAI should it be necessary.
- Be aware of the provisions in the First Aid Policy.

7. Emergency response

Once a pupil's allergies have been identified, a meeting will be set up between the pupil's parents, the relevant classroom teacher and any other relevant staff members, in which the pupil's allergies will be discussed and a plan of appropriate action and support will be developed.

All medical attention, including that in relation to administering medication, will be conducted in accordance with the First Aid Policy.

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.

Pupils will not be able to attend school or educational visits without any life-saving medication that they may have, such as AAls.

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.

Any specified support that the pupil may require will be outlined in their IHP.

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 IHP.

The Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher is responsible for working alongside relevant staff members and parents to develop IHPs for pupils with allergies, ensuring that any necessary support is provided and the required documentation is completed, including risk assessments being undertaken.

The Head Teacher has overall responsibility for ensuring that IHPs are implemented, monitored and communicated to the relevant members of the school community.

Mild-moderate allergic reactions

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

If any of the above symptoms occur in a pupil, the nearest adult will stay with the pupil and call for help from the designated staff members able to administer AAls.

The pupil's prescribed AAI will be administered by the designated staff member. Spare AAls will only be administered where appropriate consent has been received.

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.

A copy of the Register of AAls will be held in each classroom for easy access in the event of an allergic reaction.

If necessary, other staff members may assist the designated staff members with administering AAls.

The pupil's parents will be contacted immediately if a pupil suffers a mild-moderate allergic reaction, and if an AAI has been administered

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.

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.

The First Aider will refer any pupil who has been administered an AAI to the hospital for further monitoring.

The Head Teacher 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

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

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.

The designated staff member will administer an AAI to the pupil. Spare AAls will only be administered if appropriate consent has been received.

Where there is any delay in contacting designated staff members, the nearest staff member will administer the AAI.

A copy of the Register of AAls will be held in each classroom for easy access in the event of an allergic reaction.

If necessary, other staff members may assist the designated staff members with administering AAls.

The emergency services will be contacted immediately.

A member of staff will stay with the pupil until the emergency services arrive – the pupil will remain flat and still.

The Head Teacher will be contacted immediately, as well as a suitably trained individual, such as a First Aider.

If the pupil stops breathing, a suitably trained member of staff will administer CPR.

If there is no improvement after five minutes, a further dose of adrenaline will be administered using another AAI, if available.

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.

A designated staff member will contact the pupil's parents as soon as is possible.

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

Any used AAI's will be given to paramedics.

Staff members will ensure that the pupil is given plenty of space, moving other pupils to a different room where necessary.

Staff members will remain calm, ensuring that the pupil feels comfortable and is appropriately supported.

A member of staff will accompany the pupil to hospital in the absence of their parents.

If a pupil is taken to hospital by car, two members of staff will accompany them.

Following the occurrence of an allergic reaction, the Governing body, in conjunction with the Head Teacher, will review the adequacy of the school's response and will consider the need for any additional support, training or other corrective action. The incident will be recorded on EdAware.

Staff with allergies

If staff have allergies to nuts, other food sources or medication, they will inform the Head Teacher and appropriate safety precautions will be established.

Staff will ensure they have their medication in school at all times. Medication will be kept safe in the staffroom or First Aid cupboard located in the photocopying room.

If staff believe they are having an allergic reaction, they will contact a First Aider, who will attend the member of staff and provide assistance.

If required, the First Aider will ask the Admin Assistant to call for an ambulance.

Following an allergic reaction, the staff member will be permitted to go home, and appropriate cover will be arranged.

8. Catering arrangements

When the school is planning events, e.g. a school fair, the events coordinator will ensure that all allergens are correctly labelled and the events coordinator will ensure that school events are as nut-free as possible.

Separate utensils will be used to handle foods which may contain nuts. Utensils will be washed if any individual is concerned about an individual allergy.

A School Food Risk Assessment will be carried out that accounts for allergies.

Medication will be available for pupils with severe allergies.

Hygiene standards will be maintained during events and activities that involve food.

During school trips, the pupil will not be permitted to go without their medication.

At least one member of staff at any school event, activity or trip will have received anaphylaxis training.

The First Aid Policy is followed at all times.

School lunches prepared on site are made using nut-free ingredients in a nut-free kitchen.

If staff see nut-containing products on the school grounds, they will remove them and replace the product with a nut-free option.

9. Monitoring and review

The Head Teacher is responsible for reviewing this policy annually.

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored and evaluated by all members of staff. Any concerns will be reported to the Head Teacher immediately.

Following each occurrence of an allergic reaction, this policy and pupils' IHPs will be updated and amended as necessary.

Appendix 1 – Nut-free School Letter to Parents

DATE:

Dear Parent/Guardian

RE: Banned nut-based products from school

As you may already be aware, we have a pupil attending school who has a severe peanut allergy. The pupil's anaphylaxis (allergic reaction) can occur as a result of digestion, inhalation or any other contact with nut-based products. For their safety, all nut-based products are banned from the school premises.

Please do not send your child into school with any nut-based product for a snack or packed lunch (including products that may contain traces of nuts). Potential allergens could include the following:

- Spreads, e.g. chocolate spread containing nuts or traces of nuts
- Cereal bars containing nuts
- Some types of biscuit containing nuts
- Condiments, e.g. satay sauce
- Cakes containing nuts
- Some snack pots containing nuts

It is important that you check the labelling of food products before sending your child in to school with them – it is not always apparent that products contain nuts or traces of nuts.

We also ask that, if your child consumes any nut-based product before school, they wash their hands thoroughly and rinse their mouth before entering the school grounds. We understand that these measures may seem extreme; however, we want to ensure the health and safety of all our pupils, and the pupil in question's allergy is so severe that even the slightest of contact with nuts would cause a severe and potentially life-threatening reaction.

The school does not serve dinners that contain nut-based products – this includes products that are labelled as 'may contain traces of nuts'. We will also ensure all food tables are disinfected before and after being used.

Due to the severity of the pupil's allergy, if any pupil is found with a nut-based product, the school will have to confiscate and dispose of the item immediately and they will be offered a replacement nut-free option.

Due to the severity of the situation, please can you sign the return form below and send it to the school office no later than **DATE**.

Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

Kind regards,

