



FOOD ALLERGY POLICY

Rationale

The Wallace High 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 large number of pupils in the school have severe or moderate allergies to food and amongst the most common is nut allergy. The Wallace High School recognises that it has a duty of care to all its pupils. The school is therefore striving to be a nut free environment and aims to ensure that none of the foods provided, bought by or produced in the school contain nuts.

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.

At the Year 8 intake afternoon parents are required to inform the school of any known food allergies that their child has. This information goes to the Head of Year and school nurses through the yellow forms.

Parents should update this information if an allergy is diagnosed at any stage in 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 and the canteen supervisor's office.

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

All pupils diagnosed with a moderate or severe allergy which requires the administration of medication for treatment will have an individualised Action Plan for Anaphylaxis drawn up by the Community Health Care Team and agreed by the parents and school Principal. These Action Plans are reviewed annually.

Individual medication prescribed for one treatment of an allergic reaction is stored in the Medical Room (refer to Administration of Medication in Schools Policy). This includes two adrenaline auto-injector pens (EpiPen or Jext) and/or antihistamine medication. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure this medication is supplied to the school and is in date.

All pupils who are prescribed an adrenaline auto-injector pen (EpiPen or Jext) must also carry two adrenaline auto-injector pens with them at all times during the school day.

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

All parents are advised to ensure that their child does not bring nuts or foods containing nuts into school. Parents should send fruit or vegetable snacks or snacks that are store bought and have an ingredients list on the food label.

Failure to adhere to this guidance will result in disciplinary action.

Food provision in school

The school canteen and sixth form centre do not use nuts or nut oils in the preparation of food.

The Home Economics Department does not provide nuts or nut oils as ingredients for practical work and avoids foods containing nuts when taste testing. When alerted to pupils with other food allergies/intolerances careful consideration will be given to the viability of the foods in question.

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

In addition the Home Economics Department, canteen and Sixth Form Centre aim to accommodate pupils with allergies/intolerances other than those concerning nuts. Advice from parents regarding the specific needs of their child is seen as invaluable.

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 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 pupils off campus or served on trips. Therefore, pupils with severe food allergies must carefully monitor their food in these situations.

The Wallace High School cannot guarantee that there will be nothing in the school that might trigger an allergic reaction or that a pupil will never experience an allergy related event while at school. With a relatively small amount of effort and care we can, however, try together to ensure a safe environment for all our students.

See www.anaphylaxis.org.uk for more information.