

## **The Abbey Primary School**

### **Nut Allergy Awareness Policy**

The Abbey Primary School fully recognises its responsibilities for the safety of its children and staff at all times. It is recognised that there is a need for awareness of the potential for individuals in the school to suffer from allergies, particularly to nuts. It is, therefore, incumbent on the school to have a policy to raise awareness to the potential danger of foodstuffs containing nuts in the school.

#### **Purpose of Policy**

The purpose of this policy is to identify and describe the dangers of foodstuffs containing nuts in the school and the actions to be taken to reduce the chances of allergic reactions to nuts among the children and staff. It is recognised that there are persons on the roll who are identified as suffering from potential allergic reaction.

#### **Aims**

The aims of this Policy are to:

- Identify the potential threat, and the actions which the school and parents can reasonably take.
- Identify safeguards and training amongst the staff and pupils in order to reduce the risk of allergic reaction.

#### **Potential Threats and Actions**

Potential threats:

- Nuts in foods brought into the school in packed lunches, and in the foodstuffs used in school for the purposes of education. The presence of nuts (in particular of peanuts), nut spread, and oils derived from nuts and other nut related foodstuffs.
- Contact between persons who have handled nut related foodstuffs (in or outside school) and allergy sufferers, without appropriate hand washing.

#### **Reasonable limits:**

- There are many foodstuffs that do not contain nuts but which are labelled as being produced in factories handling nuts, or that cannot be guaranteed nut free. It cannot reasonably be expected that all these items be kept out of school. Thus items so packaged and labelled will be permitted in school.

#### **Actions by Parents and carers:**

- Parents and carers are requested to be aware that pupils on roll have allergies and inform the class teacher if they send their child to school with any nut product
- Parents/Carers of children with a nut allergy are requested to inform the school, and provide any medical documentation necessary as well as any appropriate medicines as prescribed by the child's doctor.

### **Actions by School Staff:**

- Staff will supervise eating at lunchtime.
- Staff will encourage students **NOT** to share food.
- Students will be encouraged to wash hands after eating.
- Staff will participate in appropriate training to understand and deal with anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions) as well as more mild reactions such as urticarial reactions (hives).
- School will carry out risk assessments for trips and follow medical guidelines in an emergency
- Inform other parents via signs and the school newsletter
- Raise pupil awareness via teaching and assemblies

### **Support to pupils at risk**

The school will ensure that students at risk are supported. Particular note will be taken of any advice given from medical professionals.

### **Policy Promotion**

This policy will be promoted by:

- Parents and carers being informed through the school's newsletter and signs.
- New families to the school community being informed.
- Staff being informed and provided with training opportunities.
- Students being informed via teachers, signs and the school's newsletter.