



COURTHOUSE GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Doing our best to be our best'

Allergy Aware Policy

Keeping Staff and Students Safe in School

July 2021

Introduction

Courthouse Green Primary School is food allergy aware. This is a change from our previous policy which stated we were 'nut free'. This change is to better reflect what efforts we can all do to minimise the risk to children with allergies whilst appreciating that we cannot be completely confident that all food items brought in are nut free or that another child has not consumed nuts before coming into school.

There are a considerable number of students at our school who have severe **food allergies**. The most common of these allergens are **peanuts**, tree nuts, dairy, eggs, shellfish, kiwi, soy and wheat. The most serious risk in our school is **nut allergies** which can cause life threatening anaphylactic reactions to some of our students.

Education and awareness are key to keeping students with potentially life-threatening allergies safe and to this end Courthouse Green School is an 'Allergy Aware' school. We are committed to provide a safe environment that is inclusive for all children, so we ask that parents please be aware of what you are sending with your children to school, and avoid sending items that contain peanuts or tree nuts and specifically kiwi fruit.

Aims of this policy

- To provide a safe learning environment for all members of Courthouse Green School
- To raise awareness of all members of the community regarding severe allergies

Management

The Allergy Aware policy will be managed by:

- Parents and caregivers being requested NOT to send food to school that contains nuts, especially peanuts. This includes all types of nuts, peanut butter, Nutella and food containing nuts.
- Parents and caregivers being requested NOT to send in kiwi fruit.
- Our school kitchen is 'Allergy Aware' and systems are in place to manage allergies
- Staff supervising eating at lunchtime.
- Students being encouraged NOT to share food.
- Students being encouraged to wash hands before and after eating.
- Staff training in understanding and dealing with Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions) as the need arises.

Promotion

The policy will be promoted by:

- Publication of this policy on the school website.
- Staff being informed and provided with training opportunities
- Pupils being informed via teachers, support staff and signs.
- Everyone to be responsible when eating and handling food inside of school.
- Helping students to understand that foods they can enjoy eating can also be dangerous to others.
- Encouraging students to support their class mates with allergies by eating and handling food responsibly.

Courthouse Green staff receive training and information related to many life threatening conditions common to our community. These conditions include anaphylaxis and diabetes. Students with life threatening conditions have health care plans outlining their condition and the safety procedures required of school staff members in the event of an emergency. These health care plans are posted in the classroom for all staff members who work with the individual to read and become familiar with the care required.

Treatment

Should a member of staff or child have an allergic reaction their individual health care plan will be followed. This includes the administration of medication (antihistamines) which can help relieve the symptoms of a mild or moderate allergic reaction. A higher dose of antihistamines is often needed to control acute allergic symptoms – please always refer to the care plan for dosage.

Adrenaline is an effective treatment for more severe allergic symptoms, such as anaphylaxis.

Staff and children with severe food allergies will have a device known as an auto-injector pen, which contains doses of adrenaline that can be used in an emergency. This is also outlined and agreed with parents in the individual health care plan.

In all circumstances where there has been an allergic reaction, parents will be contacted. In more severe cases, where an auto-injector pen has been used, an ambulance will be called.

Antihistamine medicine is clearly labelled and stored in the office.

Auto-injector pens are clearly labelled and stored in the office with a copy of the individual's health care plan.