

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S SCHOOL (WIMBORNE MINSTER)

Food Allergies Policy

Review:

Title of Policy	Food Allergies Policy
Review Cycle	2 years
Policy prepared by	Support Services Officer
Prepared and Proposed by	Queen Elizabeth's School Headteacher
Date of policy	25 th May 2021
Date of review	8 th June 2021
Next Review	June 2023

1. Introduction and Purpose

Queen Elizabeth's 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 number of students in the school have severe or moderate allergies to food and amongst the most common is nut allergy. Queen Elizabeth's School recognises that it has a duty of care to all its students. 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 students 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 ensure training and awareness of the action to take should someone with a severe food allergy display its symptoms.

2. Scope - This policy is applicable to all of Queen Elizabeth's School: Staff, Students and Parents.

3. Legal Requirements.

Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on schools and the governance of academies to make arrangements for supporting students at their school with conditions such as food allergies.

In meeting the duty, the academy committee must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State under this section. Section 100 will come into force on 1 September 2014.

4. Responsibilities

Academy Committees - must make arrangements to support students with food allergy conditions in school, including making sure that a policy for supporting students with medical conditions in school is developed and implemented. They should ensure that a pupil with food allergy conditions is supported to enable the fullest participation possible in all aspects of school life.

Headteachers – should ensure that their school’s policy is developed and effectively implemented with all stakeholders. This includes ensuring that all staff are aware of the policy and procedure for supporting students with food allergy conditions and understand their role in its implementation and who the students are.

School staff – Qualified first Aid staff receive appropriate training to enable them to provide support to students with food allergy conditions, including the administration of medicines and if necessary the completion of a health care plan for the student.

All Students – receive teaching/training about food allergies and epi-pens in order to provide a good awareness of the more serious consequences and in some instances these may even be life threatening. Any student found to have deliberately abused or approached another student with a known food allergy with the intention to harm may be excluded at the discretion of the Headteacher.

Students – with food allergy conditions will often be best placed to provide information about how their condition affects them. They should be fully involved in discussions about their medical support needs and contribute as much as possible to the development of, and comply with, their individual healthcare plan. Other students will often be sensitive to the needs of those with medical conditions.

Parents – should provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child’s food allergy conditions.

5. Procedures

During the Year 9 intake process parents are required to inform the school of any known food allergies that their child has. In some cases the school nursing team will contact to school to complete a health care plan. This information is shared with the Head of House and school first aid/medical officer.

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 students with severe food allergies are displayed in the school main reception, House office and the restaurant manager’s office.

5. Procedures (Cont'd)

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

A number of staff have been trained in the use of the EPIPEN 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.

6. Food provision in school

The school restaurant does not use nuts or nut oils in the preparation of food.

The Food Technology Department does not provide nuts or nut oils as ingredients for practical work and avoids foods containing nuts when taste testing. When alerted to students 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 Food Technology department, restaurant and cafe aim to accommodate students 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 students off campus or served on trips. Therefore, students with severe food allergies must carefully monitor their food in these situations.

Queen Elizabeth's 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.

7. Review

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years by the Headteacher and Academy Committee. Amendments will be recommended to the Academy Committee for adoption as appropriate.