



Westonbirt Schools Food Allergy Policy

Policy Title: Food Allergy Policy	Effective Date:	June 2022
Staff Member Responsible: General Manager Holroyd Howe	Review Date:	In line with regulatory requirements

Agreed in conjunction with Holroyd Howe Caterers

1. Policy Statement

1.1. Westonbirt School ('the School') recognises its responsibility for the safety of its pupils and staff and the need for awareness of the risk to individuals who may suffer from allergies or intolerances, particularly those that carry a life-threatening reaction. The management of these staff and pupils is outlined in the First Aid Policy (Annex D).

The School recognises that we have staff as well as pupils on our roll who suffer from an identified allergy; most commonly these include peanut, tree nut, milk, egg, soy, wheat, fish and shellfish.

Staff need to be aware that other members of staff and some pupils may be allergic to certain other foods. It is the responsibility of our staff to gain an understanding of the individual needs of the pupils in their care.

2. Purpose of this Policy

2.1. This policy seeks to: raise awareness; clarify practice and reassure staff (and parents) by providing them with guidelines to adhere to when working with pupils who have an identified allergy.

3. Aims

3.1. The aims of this policy are to:

3.1.1. Identify the potential threats and the actions which the School and parents can reasonably take to prevent the presence of foodstuffs containing allergens in the School.

3.1.2. Identify safeguarding and training requirements amongst staff and pupils in order to reduce, as far as possible, the risk of an allergic reaction.

4. Potential Risks

4.1. Any food on the School premises provided by ourselves or from outside.

4.2. Food brought into school for food projects.

4.3. Contact between persons who have handled foodstuffs known to present a risk of an allergic reaction (in or outside school) and allergy sufferers, without appropriate handwashing.

4.4. Catering on school / residential trips.

4.5. Events where food is served on the premises but not prepared on the premises i.e. cake sales.

4.6. Misinterpretation or a lack of understanding of the differences between a life-threatening 'allergy' or an 'intolerance' which may produce milder symptoms.

4.7. Lists of ingredients not explicitly naming the allergen (e.g. casein and whey as milk derivatives, arachis oil is another name for peanut oil).

5. Reasonable Limits

5.1. There are many foodstuffs that do not contain allergens but which are labelled as being produced in factories that cannot be guaranteed to be allergen free due to the potential for cross-contamination in preparation. It cannot reasonably be expected that all these items be kept out of school.

Items so packed and labelled will be permitted in school, in limited and controlled circumstances i.e. packed lunches or snacks provided by the School. Ingredients in products should be checked and should be used to inform decisions regarding acceptable use of a product in school (currently, ingredients that may cause an allergic reaction are listed in products in bold).

Boarding parents and guardians are asked **Not** to bring food into school boarding houses for birthdays or other events without prior consent from the Housemistress/Housemaster in charge.

If parents or guardians send food into school they will be asked not to provide food which contains the obvious allergens i.e. nuts, coconut or sesame seeds, including peanut butter, Nutella, all nuts and cooking oils containing nut oil.

6. Parent / Carer Responsibilities

6.1. Parents and guardians of children with an identified allergy are requested to do the following:

6.1.1. Complete the food allergy form. If a form is not completed, the School will assume that the pupil has no known allergies or intolerances.

6.1.2. Provide any medical documentation necessary as well as any appropriate medicines as prescribed by the child's doctor to the Health & Wellbeing Centre: san@westonbirtschool.uk

6.1.3. Assist the School by educating their child and encouraging increasing independence in the child's awareness and management of their allergy.

7. School Staff Responsibilities

7.1. All staff will be made aware of pupils with known allergies.

7.2. Form teachers must be proactive, as far as reasonably possible, in protecting pupils in their care who have a known allergy.

7.3. Holroyd Howe, the school caterers, use a colour coding system to identify special diets. The colour code is as follows:

7.3.1. **RED**: Pupil has had a severe reaction / anaphylactic shock or has been medically diagnosed.

7.3.2. **AMBER**: Pupil has an allergy or intolerance.

7.3.3. **BLUE**: Pupil excludes foods due to preferences including religious beliefs.

7.3.4. Holroyd Howe are mindful of all children who have allergies, whether producing food cooked on site or in the supply of packed lunches.

7.3.5. Holroyd Howe will apply the same principles and routines when providing packed lunches to our pupils.

7.3.6. External residential trip organisers will be notified in advance of our visit of pupils in the group with allergies or intolerances.

7.3.7. Pupils will be educated in tutor groups at the start of each school year so that they are aware of allergies and the importance of hand washing. They will be encouraged NOT to share food and to avoid the unintended spread of allergens through left over food.

7.3.8. Catering staff will participate annually in appropriate training to understand what to do when a child is suspected of having been exposed to an allergen (even if no symptom is shown) and how to identify and deal with allergic reactions including anaphylaxis shock, as well as more mild reactions. Staff embarking on food projects MUST take responsibility for checking with the school nurse the dietary needs of their class.

7.3.9. Holroyd Howe will provide training for other members of staff involved in assisting students at mealtimes (i.e. Prep School and Nursery staff).

8. Pupils in the RED category

8.1. We strongly recommend a pre-plated meal will be provided for them.

Whilst Holroyd Howe can provide plated meals that do not include the nominated allergens, they cannot guarantee that dishes do not contain traces of allergens as they may be stored and prepared in the same areas as known or identified allergens.

8.2. A meeting CAN be set up between the School nurses, parents and the relevant Holroyd House catering manager to discuss the child's allergy if desired.

8.3. Sometimes, pupils in the RED category with an allergy to nuts, are able to tolerate precautionary statements such as 'made in a factory containing nuts'. If this is the case, then during the meeting with the School, it may be possible to allow the parent to sign a disclaimer to allow the child to select meals rather than have a pre-plated meal.

9. Pupils in the AMBER or BLUE category

9.1. Pupils within these categories may ask a member of the Holroyd Howe catering team for any allergy information and this will be provided using the daily allergen checker.

10. Policy Promotion

10.1. This policy will be promoted to staff and parents via a link on our website and SharePoint.:

10.1.1. An initial circulation of its contents and making the policy available on the School website.

10.1.2. Renewed circulation at the beginning of each year.

10.1.3. Inclusion in new parent information.

10.1.4. School nurse and Holroyd Howe meetings between parents of new children with allergies.

10.1.5. Staff being informed and provided with training opportunities.

10.1.6. Training update at the beginning of each academic year.

10.1.7. Maintaining awareness by Holroyd Howe staff of school staff and pupils with allergies.

10.1.8. Holroyd Howe do not use nuts in any of the food they prepare and serve. They are, however, unable to guarantee that dishes / products served are totally free from nuts / nut derivatives. This is because ingredients, for example, curry paste, may be made in a factory containing nuts, bread may be baked in a factory handling nuts or some production lines have machines lubricated with nut oil.

10.1.9. Prior to the start of the new academic year, all known current pupils with known allergies will be asked to re – complete the updated allergy notification form sent by the nominated Holroyd Howe General Manager.

Health and Safety Committee will review periodically.

Annually

Person responsible for implementation and monitoring:

Holroyd Howe General Manager

School Related Polices:

First Aid

Supporting Students with Medical Conditions

Anaphylaxis Policy

Managing Medicines