

## Nut and Allergens Awareness Policy

Department for Education schools and preschools are required to provide learning environments that are safe and supportive of all students. This includes providing for the needs of students and staff who may have anaphylactic (severe allergic) conditions – including nut allergies. For these individuals exposure to allergens at school and preschool may constitute a serious risk to their health and wellbeing.

While it is not possible to guarantee that the school and preschool environment will be completely free of potential hazards, risks can be minimised by compliance with reasonable guidelines.

Please note: initially this policy was written with nut allergies in mind and will be updated to include other potential medical hazards involving allergies as the need arises.

### **Purpose**

- To raise the awareness of anaphylactic conditions for all members of the Seaford Rise Kindergarten community and to provide a safe environment for all members of the Seaford Rise Kindergarten community.

### **Parents:**

- Are requested NOT to send food to Seaford Rise Kindergarten that contains nuts (or other identified allergens). This includes products such as peanut paste, 'Nutella', peanut cooking oil and other foods that may contain nuts
- Will be informed of this policy at the commencement of each new school year and at the time of enrolment
- Will provide medical information about their child's/ children's allergies upon enrolment and provide documentation from a health professional (e.g. paediatrician) to support this.
- Will provide a health care plan from a health professional if their child has a serious allergy.
- Will clearly label bottles, lunchboxes and other utensils brought from home with the name of the child/children for whom they are intended.

### **Students:**

- Are not permitted to share food, containers and utensils brought from home
- Are to wash their hands before and after eating.
- Who inadvertently bring food containing traces of nuts or nut products, will not be allowed to eat that food and will be provided with an alternative. A reminder note will be sent home to parents.

### Staff:

- Will be made aware of students who have anaphylactic responses, including nut allergens
- Will supervise students during lunch eating time and will be vigilant in regard to this policy
- Will participate in training every three years to understand procedures related to anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions) or as the need arises.
- Will encourage and remind children to wash their hands before and after eating times
- Will thoroughly clean the eating areas with warm soapy water. Drinking cups/ bowls and utensils will be put through a dishwasher cycle, to remove traces of potential allergens.
- Will communicate with parents that the centre is caring for or educating a child with an allergy and request that the food which triggers the reaction is not brought into the centre.
- Will inspect donated items such as egg cartons, cereal and other food boxes, ensuring they are clean and free from contamination before using for art and craft activities.

### Promotion

The policy will be promoted by:

- New families to the preschool being informed via information in their enrolment package
- Governing Council being informed and giving approval and support to this policy
- Staff being informed and provided with training opportunities
- Students being informed via staff and parents, and centre signage.

*NQS Standard: 2.1*

*National Regulation: 168 (2) (d)*

*Related Key Regulations: 90,91,92,93,94,95,96,162,169*

Policy Review Due: 23/03/2022