



FOOD ALLERGY POLICY

Approved by: Board of Governors
Responsibility within the College: Pastoral VP
Next review by: February 2025

Date: March 2022
Sub-Committee Review: Education

RATIONALE

Methodist College takes all reasonable steps to ensure the well-being of pupils. A number of children in the school have moderate or severe allergies to food. Amongst the most common is nut allergy. We recognise that some pupils can suffer serious consequences which in some instances may even be life threatening. The school aims to ensure that none of the foods provided, bought by or produced in the school contain nuts.

We aim to:

- Reduce the likelihood of a person with a known food allergy having a severe reaction to a specific food while in school;
- Foster an understanding of the specific needs of the individual members of the school community;
- Create an awareness of the action to take should someone with a severe food allergy display its symptoms.

COLLECTION OF INFORMATION ON PUPILS WITH ALLERGIES

On admission to the College parents/guardians are required to inform the school if their child has any known medical issues, including food allergies. This information goes to the Head of Year and school nurse, and is recorded on SIMS database.

Parents/guardians are required to update the medical information if an allergy is diagnosed at any stage in their child's education.

Parents/guardians of pupils at risk of anaphylaxis are required to provide the school nurse with a completed Allergy Action Plan appropriate to your child. These can be downloaded from

<https://www.bsaci.org/about/download-paediatric-allergy-action-plans>

Each Allergy Action plan must be completed and signed by parent(s)/guardian(s) and by the pupil's healthcare provider. This Allergy Action plan outlines the action that should be taken if a pupil develops an allergic reaction. It gives the College the authority to administer the school's own AAIs should the pupil's not be available.

If a pupil's healthcare provider has issued a different protocol than the generic Allergy Action Plan, it is parental/guardian's responsibility to provide the school nurse with, a written and signed account from the child's healthcare provider, detailing the recommended action to take.

The school nurse will consult with parent(s)/guardian(s) annually to review each pupil's allergy action plan and update as necessary.

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

All teachers are given the names and pictures of children who have specific food allergies through the Medical Booklet issued at the beginning of each school year. Substitute teachers are also supplied with this information. The names of pupils at risk of anaphylaxis are also available to classroom teachers when taking a class roll via Lesson Monitor.

We inform the pupils and staff that there are pupils in the College with severe nut allergies and so in line with school values i.e. respect for others, they **must not** bring such products into school or on school trips.

TRAINING OF STAFF

The school provides training to help teachers recognise the symptoms of an allergic reaction and to respond appropriately, including the use of AAls should a child with a known food allergy go into anaphylaxis. Refresher training is provided every three years.

SUPPORT FOR PUPILS

The school nurse meets with all pupils liable to anaphylactic shock at the beginning of the academic year (or later in the term if they are admitted to the College after the beginning of the school year). The school nurse discusses their Care Plans and, when appropriate, older students act as mentors for younger pupils.

All pupils are expected to carry two AAls at all times. Parents/guardians must ensure that medicines (including AAls) are replaced before they go out of date. Emergency back-up AAls will be kept in the San.

FOOD PROVISION IN THE COLLEGE

The Canteen and Sixth Form Centre do not use nuts or nut oils in the preparation of food. The Canteen and Sixth Form Centre aim to accommodate pupils with allergies/intolerances.

The College does not sell foods that specifically list nut products on the ingredients list of a food label but cannot guarantee that products with traces of nuts will never be present.

The Food & Nutrition Department does not provide nuts or nut oils as ingredients for practical work and avoids foods containing nuts when taste testing. When alerted to pupils with other food allergies/intolerances careful consideration is given to the use of the foods in question. As an additional precaution, Food & Nutrition teachers encourage pupils to read food packaging labels when cooking and alert staff to any product(s) which might cause a problem.

On occasions in Food and Nutrition pupils make their own choice recipes and when doing so may provide their own ingredients. No ingredients that contain nuts are allowed to be brought for these practical lessons.

In the case of a pupil with multiple or unusual allergies, the school may require the parent/guardian to provide lunches and snacks to ensure the pupil's safety.

TRIPS AND VISITS

When the College seeks permission from parent/guardian for a child to go on trips and visits, the consent form has a section for medical issues to be recorded. While reasonable steps are taken to inform airlines, hotels and restaurants of the needs/allergies of the pupils going on trips and visits, the school cannot monitor products sold at events attended by pupils off campus or served on trips. Therefore, pupils with severe food allergies must carefully monitor their food in these situations. If relevant, they must carry their medication and supply staff with back up AAls.

While Methodist College 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, we do work with pupils and parents to minimise risks.

See www.anaphylaxis.org.uk for more information.

ASSOCIATED SCHOOL POLICIES

Healthy Eating
Trips and Visits