
Allergies Policy including Nut & Food Allergy - November 2020

Statement of Intent:

This policy is concerned with a whole school approach to the health, care and management of those members of the school community suffering from specific allergies. Oasis Academy Connaught (OAC) are aware that children who attend may suffer from food, bee/wasp sting, animal or nut allergies and we believe that all allergies should be taken seriously and dealt with in a professional and appropriate way. Oasis Academy Connaught's position is not to guarantee a completely allergen free environment but rather to minimise the risk of exposure, encourage self-responsibility and plan for effective response to possible emergencies. The Statutory Framework states that the provider must obtain information about any dietary requirements/allergy. As such parents are asked to provide details of allergies in the child's Pupil Admission Form, which is submitted before starting school.

Aim:

The intent of this policy is to minimise the risk of any child suffering allergy-induced anaphylaxis whilst at school. The underlying principles of this policy include: The establishment of effective risk management practices to minimise the student, staff, parent and visitor exposure to known trigger foods and insects. Staff training and education to ensure effective emergency response to any allergic reaction situation. This policy applies to all members of the school community: School Staff, Parents/Carers, Volunteers, Supply Staff and Students.

Definitions:

Allergy: A condition in which the body has an exaggerated response to a substance (e.g. food and drug) also known as hypersensitivity.

Allergen: A normally harmless substance that triggers an allergic reaction in the immune system of a susceptible person.

Anaphylaxis: Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a sudden, severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction to food, stings, bites, or medicines.

Epipen: Brand name for syringe style device containing the drug Adrenalin, which is ready for immediate inter-muscular administration.

Minimised Risk Environment: An environment where risk management practices (e.g. risk assessment forms) have minimised the risk of (allergen) exposure.

Educational Health Care Plan: A detailed document outlining an individual student's condition treatment, and action plan for location of Epipen.

Procedures and Responsibilities for Allergy Management:

General:

The involvement of parents and staff in establishing individual Health Care Plans. The establishment and maintenance of practices for effectively communicating a child's healthcare plans to all relevant staff.

Annual staff training in anaphylaxis management if needed, including awareness of triggers and first aid procedures, including Epipen training, to be followed in the event of an emergency. Age appropriate education of the children with severe food allergies.

Principal – Mrs George Fraser

Melvin Square, Knowle West, Bristol, BS4 1NH

T: 01275 894 590

W: www.oasisacademyconnaught.org

Medical Information:

- Parents/Guardians must report any change in a child's medical condition during the year to the school.
- For students with an allergic condition, the school requires parents/guardians to meet with the SENco or class teacher to write an Individual Health Care Plan which is checked by the Principal and school nurse.
- School leaders and class teachers ensure that a Health Care Plan is established and updated for each child with a known allergy.
- Teachers and teacher assistants of those students and key staff are required to review and familiarise themselves with the medical information.
- Action Plans with a recent photograph for any students with allergies will be posted in relevant rooms with parental permission.
- Where students with known allergies are participating in school excursions, the risk assessments must include this information.
- The wearing of a medic-alert bracelet is allowed by the school.

Medical Information (Epipens):

Where Epipens (Adrenalin) are required in the Health Care Plan:

Parents/guardians are responsible for the provision and timely replacement of the Epipens. The Epipens are located securely in the locked cupboard in the staff room.

Parent's role:

- Parents are responsible for providing, in writing, on-going accurate and current medical information to the school.
- Parents are to send a letter confirming and detailing the nature of the allergy; including:
 - *The allergen (the substance the child is allergic to)*
 - *The nature of the allergic reaction (from rash, breathing problems to anaphylactic shock)*
 - *What to do in case of allergic reaction, including any medication to be used and how it is to be used*
 - *Control measures: such as how the child can be prevented from getting into contact with the allergen*
 - *If a child has an allergy requiring an Epipen, or the risk assessment deems it necessary, a Health Care Plan must be completed and signed by the parents*
- It is the responsibility of the Parent to provide the school with up to date medication/equipment clearly labelled in a suitable container.
- In the case of life saving medication like Epipens the child will not be allowed to attend without it.
- Parents are also required to provide up to date emergency contact information.
- Snacks and lunches brought into school are provided by each child's parent.
- It is their responsibility to ensure that the contents are safe for the child to consume.
- Parents should liaise with staff about appropriateness of snacks and any food-related activities (e.g. cooking).

Staff's role:

- Staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with the policy and to adhere to health & safety regulations regarding food and drink.
- If a child's Medical Form states that they have an allergy then a Health Care Plan is needed. It must be in place before the child starts attending sessions. A risk assessment should be carried and any actions identified to be put in place. The Assessment should be stored with the child's Health Care Plan.

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- The Head Teacher will determine if a ban on certain foods is needed after a consultation with the parent/guardian and health professional. She will then publicise this to the whole school community.
 - All staff who come into contact with the child will be made aware of what treatment/medication is required by the school Leader and where any medication is stored.
 - All staff are to promote hand washing before and after eating.
 - Snack time is monitored by staff and are peanut, nut free and other allergens depending on the children attending. All staff should know the procedures at snack and lunch time to ensure the safety of children with allergies.
 - However, staff cannot guarantee that foods will not contain traces of nuts.
 - All tables are cleaned with an approved solution.
 - Children are not permitted to share food unless part of a planned activity that the teacher has risk assessed.
 - As part of the staff first aid course, EpiPen use and storage has been discussed.
 - We may ask the parent for a list of food products and food derivatives the child must not come into contact with.
 - Emergency medication should be easily accessible, especially at times of high risk.
 - Staff should liaise with parents about snacks and any food-related activities.
 - A list of known allergens in the school meals can be found on the school website.

Actions:

In the event of a child suffering an allergic reaction:

- Keep the child calm.
- Check to see if there is a Health Care Plan and follow instructions.
- If no Health Care Plan and the child is suffering serious symptoms ring 999 and follow advice.
- Contact parent to advise or ask for advice if less serious symptoms.

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