

# Nut Allergy Policy



**Normand Croft** Community School

**An International Family of Learners**

**Reviewed By Governors** Summer 2016

**Next review:** Summer 2019

1. This policy is based upon advice from the Anaphylaxis Campaign [see [www.allergyinschools.org.uk](http://www.allergyinschools.org.uk)].
2. All reasonable measures will be taken to ensure that as far as possible we are a *nut-free* school:
  - a. We will not knowingly use nut products in meals for children.
  - b. Staff will be encouraged not to bring in breakfast cereals containing nuts. Regardless of labelling all cereals should remain in the staffroom/staff kitchen and not made accessible to children.
  - c. We do not use nuts or peanut butter as ingredients in cooking lessons, and we seek to avoid the use of ingredients that state that they may contain traces of nuts.
3. It must be stressed however that it would be impossible to provide an absolute guarantee that we would be truly nut-free as we could not be sure that a child, staff member, contractor or visitor has (either knowingly or unknowingly) brought products with nut/traces of nuts into the building.
4. We would therefore guard against saying we are nut-free, because of the risk of giving an allergic child a false sense of security. We therefore strongly support the case for helping food-allergic children, and other children, to gain a better awareness of allergies, and learn avoidance strategies.
5. When we are informed that a child or other visitor has a nut allergy:
  - a. Our kitchen staff and the teaching team are informed
  - b. We assess the risks involved with the parents/carers and write an action plan outlining any adjustments to our normal practice.
  - c. All staff are expected to be aware of the situation are to help any child with an allergy to manage the risk. This may include taking care about exposing the child to any nut product.
  - d. We will work closely with the child and family to ensure appropriate measures are put in place for the child to take as much responsibility as possible for managing their own condition.

**6. Five Things All Staff Need to Know about Nut Allergy**

- a. A peanut allergy is not a matter of personal preference or minor discomfort. Even a minuscule amount of peanuts or peanut butter, too small to see or smell, can kill. It's therefore vital that we take the allergy seriously, and help the child and classmates to do so, too.
- b. If there is going to be a birthday party or other snack time in the classroom, teachers should talk to the parent and child with the allergy and explore what they might, or might not be able to eat.
- c. Check with the parent/carer that it's okay to let other children know about the condition.
- d. Despite this allergy being significant health condition, every child should be supported in leading as normal as possible.
- e. Keep the lines of communication open between home and the school. It is important to the child's health and safety to have all of the adults in their life working together to ensure they are safe.