

Nut Free Policy April 2026

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Reviewed by (SLT Lead):	LF
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Although we recognise that this cannot be guaranteed, Gosford Hill School aims to be a Nut-Free school.

This policy serves to set out all measures to reduce the risk to those children and adults who may suffer an anaphylactic reaction if exposed to nuts to which they are sensitive. The school aims to protect children who have allergies to nuts yet also help them, as they grow up, to take responsibility as to what foods they can eat and to be aware of where they may be put at risk. We do not allow nuts or nut products in school lunch boxes.

Our “Nut-Free Policy” means that, for example, the following items should not be brought into school:

- Packs of nuts
- Peanut butter sandwiches
- Chocolate Spread (containing nuts) Sandwiches
- Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
- Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts
- Sesame seed rolls (children allergic to nuts may also have a severe reaction to sesame)
- Cakes made with nuts
- Ingredients containing nuts to be used in Food Technology Classes

School Catering

We have a policy to not use nuts in any of our food prepared on site at our school in agreement with the catering company. Suppliers provide the catering company with nut-free products. However, we cannot guarantee freedom from nut traces.

Definition

Anaphylaxis (also known as anaphylactic shock) is an allergic condition that can be severe and potentially fatal. Anaphylaxis is your body’s immune system reacting badly to a substance (an allergen), such as food, which it wrongly perceives as a threat. The whole body can be affected,

usually within minutes of contact with an allergen, although sometimes the reaction can happen hours later.

Staff and volunteers must ensure they do not bring in or consume nut products in school and ensure they follow good hand washing practice.

- Caution must be taken at certain times of year such as Easter and Christmas.

If Staff distribute confectionary, care must be taken to ensure that no nuts are included in the product. Fruit sweets such as Haribo are a better alternative.

Particular products that are a cause for concern are: - Celebrations – Roses – Heroes – Quality Street. All product packaging must be checked for warnings directed at nut allergy sufferers and if the following or similar are displayed, the product must not be used in school.

Packaging must be checked for:

- o Not suitable for nut allergy sufferers;
- o This product contains nuts;
- o This product may contain traces nuts;
- o Indicating this is unsuitable for school consumption.

Symptoms

The symptoms of anaphylaxis usually start between three and sixty minutes after contact with the allergen. Less commonly they can occur a few hours or even days after contact. An anaphylactic reaction may lead to feeling unwell or dizzy or may cause fainting due to a sudden drop in blood pressure. Narrowing of the airways can also occur at the same time, with or without the drop in blood pressure. This can cause breathing difficulties and wheezing.

Other symptoms:

- Swollen eyes, lips, genitals, hands, feet and other areas (this is called angioedema)
- Itching
- Sore, red, itchy eyes
- Changes in heart rate
- A sudden feeling of extreme anxiety or apprehension
- Itchy skin or nettle-rash (hives)
- Unconsciousness due to very low blood pressure
- Abdominal cramps, vomiting or diarrhoea, or nausea and fever.

Anaphylaxis varies in severity. Sometimes it causes only mild itchiness and swelling, but in some people it can cause sudden death. If symptoms start soon after contact with the allergen and rapidly worsens, this indicates that the reaction is more severe.

Epi Pen trained staff are named First Aiders

Please check the school office, medical room and the Staffroom noticeboard for a list of qualified staff. Parents and Carers Parents and carers must notify staff of any known or suspected allergy to nuts and provide all medical and necessary information. This will be added to the child's care plan and if necessary a meeting organised with the school nurse.

Homemade snacks or party food contributions must have a label detailing all ingredients present and the kitchen environment where the food was prepared must be nut free. If you are unsure about these please speak to a staff member before bringing the food item into school.

The school requests that parents and carers observe the nut-free policy and therefore do not include nuts, or any traces of nuts, in packed lunches.

Health Plans and Emergency Response

We have individual Healthcare plans for children with allergies and Allergy Lists are displayed highlighting Healthcare plans in place, triggers, medication (Medication will be stored, administered and documented in accordance with our Administering Medicine Policy).