Hillside Primary School

Nut Awareness Policy

Date of next review: September 2027

Nut Awareness:

Hillside Primary School is **food allergy aware**.

This does not mean that the school is completely **'nut free'**. We aim to minimise the risk to children and adults with food allergies, while recognising that it is not possible to guarantee that all food items brought into school are completely free from nuts, or that another child or adult has not consumed nuts before coming into school.

There are a number of pupils at our school who have severe food allergies. Common allergens include **peanuts, tree nuts, eggs, fish and chickpeas**. The most significant risk within our school is nut allergy, which can cause a life-threatening **anaphylactic reaction** in some pupils.

The school takes all reasonable and proportionate steps to reduce the risk of exposure to nuts and other allergens and to ensure that staff are aware of the needs of pupils with severe allergies.

Aims of this Policy

The aims of this policy are:

- To provide a safe and supportive learning environment for all members of the school community.
- To reduce the risk of exposure to nuts and other known allergens within school.
- To raise awareness among pupils, staff, parents, carers and visitors of the potential seriousness of food allergies.
- To promote understanding of how pupils can support classmates who have food allergies.
- To ensure that appropriate procedures are in place to respond to allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.

Management

The Nut Awareness Policy will be managed through the following measures:

- **Parents and carers are requested not to send food into school that contains nuts or nut products**, particularly peanuts. This includes all types of nuts, peanut butter, Nutella and foods containing nuts or nut derivatives.
- The **school kitchen operates on a nut-free basis** and does not knowingly use nuts or nut derivatives in food prepared for pupils.
- Ingredients provided for **Food Technology** activities will not knowingly contain nuts or nut derivatives.
- Staff will supervise pupils during lunchtime and other occasions when food is consumed in school.
- Pupils will be encouraged **not to share food** with other pupils.
- Pupils will be encouraged to **wash their hands before and after eating**.
- Staff will receive appropriate training and guidance in understanding and responding to **anaphylaxis and severe allergic reactions**, as required.
- Individual pupils with diagnosed allergies will have appropriate medical information and emergency procedures recorded and made available to relevant staff.

Promotion and Awareness

The policy will be promoted through:

- Staff being informed about the school's Nut Awareness Policy and provided with appropriate training opportunities.
- Publication of the policy on the school website.
- Pupils being informed through teachers, support staff and appropriate signage.
- Teaching pupils that foods which are safe and enjoyable for them may be potentially dangerous to someone with a severe allergy.
- Encouraging pupils to support classmates with allergies by eating and handling food responsibly.
- Reminding pupils not to share food or drinks with others.
- Providing information to parents and carers about the school's approach to managing nut and food allergy risks.

Risk Assessment and Management of Nut Allergy

The school will take the following steps to manage the risk associated with nut allergies:

- **Medical information:** Relevant allergy and medical information will be kept up to date and made available to staff who need to be aware of a pupil's condition. Staff will regularly review relevant medical information.
- **Awareness of food brought into school:** Staff will remain alert to obvious signs that nuts or nut-containing products have been brought into school. However, staff will **not routinely inspect or check all food brought into school**.
- **Food containing nuts:** If a member of staff becomes aware that a pupil has brought food containing nuts or nut products into school, the food will be removed from the pupil's access and dealt with appropriately. Where necessary, an alternative item may be provided by the school kitchen.
- **Emergency response:** Where a pupil experiences symptoms of an allergic reaction, staff will follow the pupil's individual healthcare plan and the school's emergency procedures. Emergency medication, including an adrenaline auto-injector where prescribed, will be administered in accordance with the relevant healthcare plan and staff training.
- **Communication:** Parents and carers will be informed where an incident involving an allergen occurs and where further action or follow-up is required.

Important Note

While Hillside Primary School takes reasonable steps to reduce the risk of exposure to nuts, the school **cannot guarantee a completely nut-free environment**. The cooperation of pupils, parents, carers, staff and visitors is therefore essential in helping to protect members of our school community who have severe food allergies.

All members of the school community are expected to take reasonable care when bringing, consuming or handling food on school premises.