



## OLDFIELDS HALL MIDDLE SCHOOL

### NUT ALLERGY AWARENESS GUIDANCE

Oldfields Hall Middle School fully recognises its responsibilities for the safety of its children and staff at all times. It is recognised that there is a growing case for awareness of the potential for individuals in the school to suffer from allergies, particularly to nuts. It is, therefore, incumbent on the School to have guidance to raise awareness of the potential danger of foodstuffs containing nuts in the School.

#### 1. Purpose of the guidance

The purpose of this guidance is to identify and describe the dangers of foodstuffs containing nuts in the school and the actions to be taken to reduce the chances of allergenic reactions to nuts among the children and staff. It is recognised that there are persons on the role who are identified as suffering from potential allergic reaction.

#### 2. Aims

The aims of this guidance are to:

- Identify the potential threat, and the actions which the School and parents can reasonably take to prevent the presence of foodstuffs containing nuts in the School.
- Identify safeguards and training amongst the staff and pupils in order to reduce the risk of allergic reaction.

#### 3. Potential Threats and Actions

Potential threats:

- Nuts in foods brought into the School in Packed-Lunches, and in the foodstuffs used in School for the purposes of education. The presence of Nuts (in particular of Peanuts), nut spread, oils derived from nuts and other nut related foodstuffs.
- Contact between persons who have handled nut related foodstuffs (in or outside school) and allergy sufferers, without appropriate hand washing.

Reasonable limits:

There are many foodstuffs that do not contain nuts but which are labelled as being produced in factories handling nuts, or that cannot be guaranteed nut free. It cannot reasonably be expected that all these items be kept out of school. Thus items so packaged and labelled will be permitted in school.

Actions by Parents and carers:

- ✓ Parents and Carers are requested **NOT** to send food to school that contains nuts (especially peanuts). This includes peanut paste/butter, nutella, all nuts and cooking oils containing peanut oil, as well as foods containing nuts. This is especially important in the youngest classes of school, where young children are less able to



manage their allergy.

- ✓ Parents/Carers of children with nut allergy are requested to inform the school, and provide any medical documentation necessary as well as any appropriate medicines as prescribed by the child's doctor.

#### Actions by School Staff:

- Staff will supervise eating at lunchtime if required.
- Staff will encourage students **NOT** to share food.
- Students will be encouraged to wash hands after eating.
- Staff will participate in appropriate training to understand and deal with Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions) as well as more mild reactions such as urticarial reactions (Hives).
- Medical notes will be shared with staff and updated when required.
- Latex free gloves will be used.

#### 4. Support to pupils at risk

The school will ensure that students at risk are supported in any way necessary. Particular note will be taken of the threat of allergy related bullying.

#### 5. Guidance Promotion

This guidance will be promoted by:

- Parents and Carers being informed through the Newsletter.
- New families to the school community being informed via the Enrolment Information Package.
- Staff being informed and provided with training opportunities.
- Students being informed via teachers, signs and the newsletter.

Guidance reviewed	January 2017 (VM)
Date of next review	February 2018