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PEANUT AND NUT ALLERGY POLICY (KS/P&B/120)

Committee Responsible:	Pastoral and Boarding Committee
Lead Officer:	First Aid Officer
Date of Review:	June 2025
Date to be Reviewed:	June 2028
Signed: Date:	

PEANUT AND NUT ALLERGY POLICY

REVIEW SHEET

The information in the table below details earlier versions of this document with a brief description of each review and how to distinguish amendments made since the previous version date.

Version Number	Version Description	Date of Revision
1	Original – New Policy	June 2025

Ref:	Peanut and Nut Allergy	Type:	Policy
Version:	01	Owner:	First Aid Officer
Date:	June 2025	Status:	

PEANUT AND NUT ALLERGY POLICY

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PEANUT ANY NUT ALLERGY POLICY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Keswick School is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all students, including those with allergies. This policy outlines our approach to managing nut allergies, including peanuts, within the school setting, aligning with current government guidance and best practices.

2.0 POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.1 Keswick School aims to be a nut-free environment to minimise the risk of allergic reactions for students with nut allergies. While we strive to eliminate nuts from our premises, we acknowledge that it is impossible to guarantee a completely nut-free environment due to the prevalence of nuts in food production labelled as 'may contain'.

3.0 GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES AND BEST PRACTICES

- 3.1 This policy is informed by guidance from relevant government bodies, including but not limited to:
- The Department for Education (DfE): Guidance on supporting pupils with medical conditions at school.
 - The Food Standards Agency (FSA): Advice on allergen labelling and management in food settings.
 - Public Health England (PHE) / UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA): Recommendations on managing allergies in schools.
- 3.2 Key principles from these guidelines include:
- Individual Healthcare Plans (IHCPs): Essential for students with diagnosed allergies, outlining symptoms, triggers, medication, and emergency procedures.
 - Staff Training: Ensuring all relevant staff are trained in allergy awareness, administering medication (e.g., auto-injectors), and emergency procedures.
 - Communication: Clear and consistent communication with parents, students, and staff regarding allergy management.
 - Risk Assessment: Regular assessment of potential allergen risks within the school environment.

4.0 SCOPE OF THE POLICY

- 4.1 This policy applies to:
- All students, staff, and visitors to Keswick School.
 - All areas within the school premises, including classrooms, dining halls, outside areas, and school trips.
 - Food brought into school from home and food provided by the school.

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Food Brought from Home:

- Parents/Carers are requested NOT to send nuts or nut-containing products into school. This includes, but is not limited to: peanuts, tree nuts (e.g., almonds, cashews, walnuts, pistachios, Brazil nuts, pecans, hazelnuts), nut butters, Nutella, and items clearly containing nuts (e.g., some granola bars, certain biscuits/cakes).

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- Products explicitly labelled with a "may contain nuts" or "produced in a factory that handles nuts" warning are permitted. We understand that avoiding all such products can be challenging, and our focus is on eliminating direct nut ingredients. However, we encourage parents to exercise caution and choose alternatives where readily available.
- Parents of children with severe nut allergies will work closely with the school to develop an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHCP) that may include additional specific restrictions on food brought from home for their child.
- Students will be reminded not to share food with others.

5.2 **School-Provided Food (e.g., School Dinners, Boarders breakfast):**

- Our catering providers will ensure that all meals prepared and served on school premises are nut-free, meaning no nuts or nut-containing ingredients are intentionally used in the recipes.
- Catering staff are trained in allergen awareness and cross-contamination prevention.
- Allergen information for school meals will be clearly displayed and made available to parents and students.
- The school cannot guarantee that ingredients used by suppliers have not been processed in facilities that also handle nuts. We will, however, work with our suppliers to minimise this risk where possible.

5.3 **Classroom Activities and Special Events:**

- Staff will be vigilant about ingredients in food-based activities (e.g., cooking, baking, art projects) and try to ensure they are nut-free.
- Parents will be informed in advance of any food-related activities in the classroom to allow for appropriate alternatives or adjustments for children with allergies.

5.4 **Managing Allergic Reactions:**

- All staff will receive regular training on allergy awareness, recognising the signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction (anaphylaxis), and the correct use of adrenaline auto-injectors (e.g., EpiPen, Jext).
- Individual Healthcare Plans (IHCPs) for students with diagnosed allergies will be readily accessible to all relevant staff.
- In the event of an allergic reaction, emergency procedures outlined in the IHCP will be followed immediately, and emergency services will be contacted.
- Parents/guardians will be informed immediately.

5.5 **Communication and Awareness:**

- This policy will be available to all parents/guardians on the school website.
- Regular reminders will be issued prior to any food-based activities and at the beginning of the academic year.
- Posters and signage reinforcing the nut allergy message will be displayed around the school.

6.0 **RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Senior Leadership Team: Overall responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of this policy.
- School Staff: Adherence to the policy, vigilance in identifying potential risks, and prompt action in case of an allergic reaction.
- Parents/Carers: To inform the school of any allergies, provide up-to-date medication, and adhere to the food guidelines for items brought from home.

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- Students: To understand the importance of the policy, not share food, and report any concerns to a member of staff.

7.0 REVIEW

- 7.1 This policy will be reviewed bi-annually, or sooner if there are changes in government guidance or school circumstances, to ensure its effectiveness and ongoing relevance.

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