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Managing Allergies in School Policy

Edenham C of E Primary School

Church schools serving their communities through excellence, exploration and encouragement within the love of God.

The diocese of Lincoln is called to faithful worship, confident discipleship and joyful service and our church schools bear witness to our belief that every child is made in the image of God and loved by Him. They were founded for the good of their local communities so that children can be educated through the values and stories of Christianity.

Policy Owner: Executive Head Teacher

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Policy Aims

Edenham CE Primary School recognises that although most food intolerances produce symptoms that are uncomfortable, some people can suffer a severe food allergy with more serious consequences and in some instances these may even be life threatening. At any time, there may be pupils with severe or moderate food allergies; the most common allergies are to milk, eggs, fish, shellfish and particularly, nuts.

The aim of this policy 3-fold:

- To reduce the likelihood of a pupil with a known food allergy suffering a severe reaction to a specific food while in school.
- To foster an understanding of and sense of responsibility for the specific needs of the individual members of the school community.
- To create an awareness of the actions to take should someone with a severe food allergy display its symptoms.

Common symptoms of an allergic reaction to food include itching in the mouth, throat or ears, a raised itchy red rash (hives), swelling of the face, around the eyes, lips, tongue and roof of the mouth and vomiting. In the most serious cases, a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis, which can include breathing difficulties, light headedness and feeling like you are going to faint) can be life-threatening.

People with allergies need to avoid the foods to which they are allergic. It is important that children with suspected food allergies see their GP for referral to an allergy clinic for a formal diagnosis. Children with diagnosed severe allergies may be given a device known as an auto-injector pen (e.g. epi-pen) containing a dose of adrenaline to be used in emergencies.

The school recognises that it has to provide a safe environment and aims to ensure that pupils exposure to allergens is minimised. The school is committed to pupil safety and therefore has created this policy to reduce the risk of children having allergy related events while in its care.

Parents and Carers

Parents are required to inform the school of any known food allergies that their child has. This may take the form of a Care Plan in more serious cases. Parents should update this information if any allergy is diagnosed at any stage of their child's education.

Parents must advise the school of the action that should be taken if their child develops the symptoms of an allergic reaction while in school.

This information is recorded and stored by the school office in its management information system.

All members of staff are given the names of children who have specific food allergies, and should seek to check this information at least termly or before planning any trips, or special events that may expose the child to different or new risks.

Photographs of pupils with severe food allergies are displayed in the staff room and in the school office.

The school will access training to enable staff to recognise the symptoms of an allergic reaction and to respond appropriately. This will include the use of Epi-pens for children with a known allergy that may lead to anaphylaxis.

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Food Provision in School

We want to minimise the risk from food allergens as much as possible; nuts are a product for which we need to be especially vigilant as the risk of transference is high, even with the slightest contact for a child at risk. We will aim to minimise the risk from nuts or foods containing nuts as much as is reasonably possible.

All parents are asked to ensure that their child does not bring nuts or foods containing nuts into school; this includes snacks, lunchbox items and birthday treats. The school's hot meals provider – Ideal Meals provides advice and information on its website:

<http://www.idealschoolmeals.co.uk/parents/>

Parents are asked to indicate if their child has any special dietary requirements when signing up online for meals and they encourage parents to communicate with them directly with any questions or concerns.

In the case of pupils with multiple or unusual allergies, the school may require parents to provide lunches and snacks to ensure the child's safety.

The Friends of Edenham or other groups, will not bring nuts into school, or foods containing nut products intentionally as part of their events. They will communicate with the school office about the risk of pupils with food allergies during their risk assessment process for any event, and will also ask parent to indicate in writing if there are any risks they should be aware of.

The school will attempt to avoid serving nuts or food with nus, but cannot guarantee that products with nuts will never be present.

Risk from Exposure in Other Areas of the Curriculum

Staff and parents should also plan carefully for children with severe allergies when there is a risk in other areas of the curriculum. For example:

- Use of natural collage materials may include seeds or nuts
- Junk modelling – boxes that may have contained nuts or nut products
- Outdoor education and wildlife education – bird feed

Care should be taken to ensure that children always have available to them any medication they may require in the event of an allergic reaction. This includes when out of school on trips and visits, a church or at the village hall playing field for sports activities.

Managing Individual Needs

In cases where there is a severe risk of anaphylaxis for a child, the school will establish a Care Plan for that child. The Care Plan will be written by the school, parents, the pupil themselves and other professionals where necessary.

Priority actions for care in an emergency should be stored with the child's medication for quick reference.

This policy was written with support and guidance from

<http://www.childrensfoodtrust.org.uk/childrens-food-trust/what-we-do/wwd/>

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's "Managing Medicines in School Policy"

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