



# Broomwood Primary School

Nut Allergy Awareness Policy

March 2020

Mission Statement

*'Together we believe, together we achieve'*

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to

- Raise awareness about allergies to all our school community
- Ensure we provide a safe learning environment for all
- Give assurance to those children/families with severe allergies that we take the management of these seriously.

## **Aim**

We are not a nut-free school but we aim to minimise risk to pupils and staff who have allergies to nuts. It is impossible to provide an absolute guarantee that no peanuts will be brought onto the premises but we will strive to minimise this as much as we can.

## **Management**

We ask that all members of the school community manage the day to day application of this policy in the following ways:

- Parents and carers are requested NOT to send packets of peanuts or peanut based snacks to school for snacks or school lunches.
- Staff will be alert to any obvious signs of nuts being brought in, but they will not inspect all food brought into school.
- Children that DO bring peanuts into school will be asked to eat that food away from any child with a nut allergy and to wash their hands before going to play.
- Children will be asked NOT to share food.
- Children will be encouraged to wash hands before and after eating.
- Some staff are trained in understanding and dealing with Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions) and will use this training as the need arises.
- The school dinner providers will ensure all cooked food is peanut-free.

## **Promotion**

The policy will be promoted by:

- A copy of this policy being made available to all parents and carers.
- Staff being informed and provided with training opportunities.
- Children being informed via teachers and support staff.
- Publication of this policy on the school website

## Legislation and guidance

This policy should be read in conjunction with the *'Managing Medical Needs and First Aid in School'* policy and the *'Department of Health Guidance on the use of adrenaline auto-injectors in schools'*

Advice from <https://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk/> is that a total nut ban in school is unnecessary; they do not advocate a total nut ban in schools as this is extremely difficult to enforce as nuts, or nut traces, are present in a wide range of products from foods to hand creams; not all of which may be obvious. Airborne allergic reactions are very rare. Usually, a person has to ingest or directly come into contact with the protein in order to suffer an allergic reaction. Being in the proximity of a person who has recently eaten nuts is therefore unlikely to trigger an allergic reaction. They suggest that asking staff and pupils to not have nut-containing foods for their lunches may be unreasonable and unnecessary. **For a child or staff member who is likely to suffer from an airborne allergic reaction to nuts, a risk assessment and medical plan will be put in place.**

Date 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020