

Allergies and Allergic Reactions Policy

At Hopes and Dreams we are aware that children can have allergies that may cause allergic reactions. We will follow this policy to ensure all allergic reactions are minimised or, where possible, prevented and staff are fully aware of how to support a child who may be having an allergic reaction.

The Nursery School operates on a strict NUT-FREE policy and parents are not allowed to bring any food from outside.

- Staff will receive training to recognise the possible signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction so they are able to respond in the event of an unknown or first reaction in a child. These may include a rash or hives, nausea, stomach pain, diarrhoea, itchy skin, runny eyes, shortness of breath, chest pain, swelling of the mouth, tongue or neck, chest, wheezing or anaphylaxis
- Information will be passed on by parents from the 'Get to know your child Questionnaire' regarding known allergic reactions and allergies that must be shared with all staff in the Nursery School
- Parents will complete a full medical care plan with the Nursery Manager prior to the child starting at the Nursery School. This information will then be shared with the staff in the child's classroom. The medical care plan and the required medication will be kept in a clearly labelled bag with the child's name and will be taken with the child everywhere they go
- All food prepared for a child with a specific allergy will be prepared separately in the kitchen by the Chef, reducing the chances of cross contamination. The equipment and utensils used will not come in contact with specific food types, e.g. dairy.
- The Manager, Nursery Chef and parents will work together with Nursery Staff to ensure children with specific food allergies do not receive any food that may harm them. An adapted menu will be put together for a child if this is required. All meals for children with dietary requirements will be clearly labelled with the child's name and listing all the ingredients in the meal
- Seating will be monitored for children with allergies. A member of staff will sit with children who have allergies and, where age-/stage-appropriate, staff will discuss food allergies and the potential risks
- All children will have a placemat showing 'Please do not give me' listing any foods that the child cannot eat due to allergies, preference from parents or religious beliefs
- If a child has an allergic reaction to food, a bee or wasp sting, a plant, etc., a first aid trained member of staff will act quickly and administer the appropriate treatment as necessary. Parents will be informed of the incident and it will be recorded in the incident book
- If this reaction requires specialist treatment, e.g. an EpiPen, then at least two members of staff working directly with the child and the Manager will receive specific medical training to be able to administer the treatment to each individual child
- If the allergic reaction is severe a member of staff will call an ambulance immediately. We WILL NOT attempt to transport the sick/injured child in our own vehicle
- While waiting for the ambulance, we will contact the parent/carer and arrange for them to meet us at the hospital

- The most appropriate member of staff will accompany the child and collect together the child's registration file, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter
- Staff must remain calm at all times as children who witness an allergic reaction may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance
- All incidents will be recorded, shared and signed by parents at the earliest opportunity
- Staff may also require support following an incident

Reviewed on: May 2020

Signed on behalf of the Nursery School: *Mikki Parkes*

Next review date: May 2021