

Dear Parent/Carer

Food Allergies

You will be aware that food allergies are a growing concern in educational establishments throughout the UK and Ireland. Individuals who are affected with a food allergy may suffer a severe or even fatal reaction if they eat, or, in some cases simply come into contact, with a food or ingredient that they are allergic to.

The health and safety of every child and young person in our care is very important to us and we are asking you to help us to provide a secure educational environment.

Please complete the Food Allergy Information Form below in full as soon as possible. You will need to return it to info@oasisjohnwilliams.org by Monday 4 September.

What do I do if my child/young person does not have a food allergy?

We are asking all parents/carers to complete and return the Food Allergy Information Form even if your child/young person does not have an allergy.

What do I do if my child/young person does have a food allergy?

If your child/young person does have a food allergy, you will need to provide us with a written assessment of their condition from either a doctor or a dietician. This information is essential to ensure that your child/young person is provided with a diet that is suitable for their food allergy and that does not unnecessarily restrict their diet. For example:

- *"I am allergic to eggs"*
This could be an allergy to raw egg, cooked egg or foods containing egg. A letter from a doctor/dietician will help to clarify the food allergy;

- *"I am allergic to nuts"*
There are different types of nut allergy and it is important to understand whether an individual is allergic to peanuts or tree nuts (for example hazelnuts, Brazil nuts, almonds, pine nuts etc.).

We will keep a record of your child/young person's Food Allergy Information Form to use in the event of a medical emergency. We will share details of any food allergy assessments with Sodexo Limited who provide our catering. Sodexo was established in 1966 and is a global leader in providing high quality catering services. Using their experience and a team of well-respected dieticians, Sodexo have developed robust food allergen management procedures to manage your child's/young person's dietary requirements.

If your child/young person has a food allergy and you do not return the Food Allergy Information Form together with a doctor/dietician's assessment where necessary, **your child/young person will be fed a restricted diet.** When you have been able to provide a doctor/dietician's assessment of your child/young person's condition, we will be able to offer them a wider menu appropriate to their needs.

**Executive Principal of Oasis Academy John Williams
Victoria Boomer-Clark**

Petherton Road, Hengrove, Bristol, BS14 9BU
Tel: 01275 894680. Fax: 01275 832883. www.oasisacademyjohnwilliams.org

Keeping us up to date

Please ensure that you inform us if your child/young person develops a food allergy, or if there are any changes to their existing allergy. Before any altered diet can be provided, you will need to provide us with a written assessment of their condition from either a doctor or dietician.

You will find below some more information you may find useful.

If you have any questions please contact your child's 360 Year Team Manager in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

Andrea Rea
Vice Principal

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Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q. I think my child/young person has an allergy to certain foods but I am not sure. What should I write on the form?

A. If you think your child/young person has a food allergy then we strongly advise you to seek the advice of either a medical or nutritional professional to obtain further information as soon as possible. If you tell us that your child/young person has an allergy, but you do not yet have an assessment of their condition from either a doctor or a dietician, their diet will be restricted to foods which our catering partner Sodexo believes are unlikely to induce any allergic reaction. Once you have been able to provide a doctor or dietician's assessment of your child/young person's condition we will be able to offer them a wider menu appropriate to their needs.

2. Q. Why do you need to receive a doctor/dietician's assessment before you will feed my child/young person?

A. Food allergens can cause life-long health issues and in certain circumstances cause death. We do not want to place any child/young person in the position where their health or their life could be at risk. Without a doctor/dietician's assessment we cannot be certain that we are providing a child/young person with a diet that is appropriate for their health needs.

3. Q I have already told you verbally about the food allergy, why do I need to fill in a form?

A. We need to keep a written record with details of any food allergies that your child/young person has so that we can share it in an emergency with medical professionals. We also need to ensure that we are sharing accurate information about your child/young person's food allergy with Sodexo who are the company that provide our catering.

4. Q. Can your catering partner Sodexo promise to provide food that is created and served in 'nut free' environments?

A. Sodexo is unable to commit to ensuring that any establishment that it provides food to will be completely 'nut free'. Whilst Sodexo does not use whole peanuts or tree nuts as ingredients within its premises (unless specifically requested to do so), some of those ingredients come from manufacturers who have placed a 'may contain traces of peanuts or tree nuts' label on them. This means that food produced using these ingredients cannot be claimed to be 'nut free'.

5. Q. My child/young person has packed lunch. Why do I need to complete the form?

A. In certain educational establishments, children/young people who eat meals prepared by our caterers will sit with those who eat packed lunches. Some children/young people with food allergies can suffer a reaction by either coming into contact with or being in close proximity to the particular ingredient that they are allergic to. By understanding which child/young person has a food allergy we are able to limit the potential of an incident occurring.

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FOOD ALLERGY INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the details below in BLOCK CAPITALS

When you have completed the form please return it by e-mail to info@oasisjohnwilliams.org

Full name of child/young person	
Learning Mentor Group	
<p>Does your child have a food allergy?*</p> <p><i>(please tick box)</i></p> <p><i>* if your child is a coeliac (has a wheat allergy), please tick the 'Yes' box.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, my child/young person has a food allergy and I have attached or will provide you with a doctor/dietician's assessment of their condition in writing.</p> <p>I understand that until I have been able to provide you with that assessment my child/young person will receive a restricted diet.</p>
Parent/Carer name	
Relationship to student	
Contact address	
Contact telephone number	
Emergency contact name	
Emergency contact telephone number	
Parent/Guardian signature	
Date	

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