

Education Catering Medically Identified Special Diets Policy Primary Schools

Introduction

1.0 Aims

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| 1.1 | Education Catering aim to provide children in contracted primary schools, with medically proven special dietary requirements and food allergies with the same opportunities as other pupils at school. Although food allergies are not a stated Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requirement, we work beyond the fourteen main allergies. We work continuously to make reasonable adjustments and improve what we do to give children a nutritious diet. |
| 1.2 | To ensure the provision of special diets is successful and to meet with safeguarding requirements, this policy sets out the responsibilities of schools, parents and caterers' requirements. |
| 1.3 | All our standard primary school menus exclude nuts in line with food allergen labelling regulations (namely peanut, almond, hazelnut, walnut, cashew, pecan, Brazil, pistachio, macadamia/Queensland nuts). We do not use ingredients in which labelling identifies any nut derived ingredients or bear any precautionary warnings as to their potential presence. Children with one or more of these nut allergies can eat our primary menu without having to register for a special diet. |
| 1.4 | Withdrawing a food group from your child's diet should always be monitored by a health professional. Education Catering needs to be fully aware of potential symptoms and if necessary, carry out a risk assessment. Medical evidence ensures we focus our resources to provide special diet menus for those who really need it and not just to accommodate personal preferences. |
| 1.5 | Education Catering will take every possible precaution, to ensure that food items detailed in the menus for children with medically proven special diets, will be given to the identified children and that Education Catering will manage all appropriate processes. There is, however, always a risk that traces of allergens may be transferred to items from our menu during processing, storage or preparation in our kitchens. For these reasons Education Catering is unable to guarantee that any item on any of our menus is free from trace allergens. |
| 1.6 | Only food purchased from nominated suppliers, in accordance with Hampshire County Council specifications will be used in Education Catering kitchens. |
| 1.7 | Our special diet team focus and devote their resources on feeding a healthy and nutritious lunch to children who have registered as having a medical special diet. This means we are unable cater for specific special diets for schools that choose to offer a breakfast or morning break/tuck shop service. We can, however, provide a full list of ingredients for all the items we offer. For those |

schools that require this information, email our Food Development team at Edcateringfooddevelopment@hants.gov.uk

Parental responsibility for their children

2.0 Applying for a Special Diet

- 2.1 Children who have medical needs will usually be under the care of medical professionals. It is the responsibility of parents/guardian to provide accurate information relating to any allergies/special diets that their child may have or require and that this is backed up with medical evidence.
- 2.2 Education Catering will always require medical evidence to support the application confirming the child's allergy or intolerance and parents/guardians must specify what food item/group is to be removed from the menu.
- 2.3 Medical evidence will only be accepted from a professional medical source i.e., a medical doctor, registered dietician, nurse or other qualified NHS medical professional. School composed care plans, private commercial laboratory reactivity results and homeopathic diagnoses will not be accepted.
- 2.4 Applications for special diets are made via the Education Catering Special Diet portal www.hants.gov.uk/hc3s-specialdiets Parents are required to register for an account for their child's special diet. As part of the application process, the following information is required:
- Child's school details including class name or number
 - Evidence of your child's medical requirements
 - Electronic passport style photograph of their child which will be uploaded on to the Special Diet portal
- 2.5 Once registration for an account has been made, parents will be able to log in to their account at any stage to check the progress of the application.
- 2.6 When the approval process has been completed, an email notification is sent to the parent confirming the date their child can start eating a school lunch.
- 2.7 Once a child is registered as requiring a special diet menu and the menu has been produced, they will remain on this menu for the duration of the menu cycle.
- 2.8 A menu change will only be made if a child develops additional allergies during the menu cycle. Supportive medical evidence will be required and all requests to update a child's menu must be made via the special diet online portal via the parents online account.
- A packed lunch should be provided to the child as an interim measure until the revised menu has been produced.

3.0 Severe allergies – adrenaline auto injector (i.e. EpiPen)	
3.1	If a child requires an adrenaline auto injector for food allergies (other than nut allergies) parents/guardians must advise both the school admin office, on school enrolment and Education Catering via the online application process.
3.2	We strongly recommend to schools, that children requiring an adrenaline auto injector, (other than nut allergies), are escorted to the service counter at lunch time by a member of school staff to ensure they are easily identified.
4.0 Education Catering Allergy matrix	
5.1	We strongly recommend full registration for any child with food allergies. If parents choose not to register, they must take responsibility for their child's choice and we strongly recommend that they consult with our allergy matrix, which can be found at http://hc3primarymenu.mysaffronportal.com
5.2	The Education Catering allergy matrix relates to the ingredients available on our current standard menu and provides information for the 14 main allergens.

School's responsibilities

6.0 Special Diet application	
6.1	It is the school's responsibility to make parents/guardians aware that they are required to provide Education Catering with the information and evidence of their child's special dietary needs, for children registered at their school.
6.2	The school must direct the parents/guardians to Education Catering website www.hants.gov.uk/hc3s-specialdiets to see the portal to create an account to register for a Medically Identified Special Diet for their child/ren
7.0 Identification of children requiring a special diet	
7.1	All children registered with Education Catering for a medical special diet meal are required to wear an orange silicon band to aid in the identification of the child during the lunch service. These bands are provided by Education Catering and it is the school's responsibility to ensure the correct children wear them each day to the service counter in exchange for their meal.
7.2	In addition to an orange band, schools are required to sign 'Method of Identification for pupils requiring a special diet form' to confirm what additional identification method they will use. This is available from the area District Manager.

7.3	It is also recommended as best practice that all children requiring a medical special diet are served first and escorted to the counter in addition to wearing an orange band.
8.0 Severe allergies – adrenaline auto injector (EpiPen)	
8.1	For safeguarding reasons, it is strongly recommended for children, who require an adrenaline auto injector (EpiPen) for all food allergies other than nut allergies, should be escorted to the service counter by a member of school staff during the lunch service. This should be in addition to the child wearing an orange band.
9.0 Allergy awareness training	
9.1	Education Catering offer school lunchtime supervisory staff a free one-hour training briefing on food allergies. The briefing covers: allergic reaction responses; the requirements of Food Safety Law and the procedures Education Catering have in place; to ensure the safety of customers who require a special diet for food allergy or intolerance reasons. To book this training email a request through to: Edcateringtraining@hants.gov.uk
10.0 School leaver/transfers	
10.1	Schools are required to notify the Education Catering Food Development team the names of those children who receive a special diet who are a) moving to Junior school or b) transferring to secondary school, or c) moving to another school.

Education Catering responsibilities

12.0 Special Diet Application

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| 12.1 | On receipt of an online application, Education Catering Food Development team will check that the necessary information has been submitted and the correct medical evidence received to support the requested menu. |
| 12.2 | Once Education Catering Food development is satisfied that the relevant information has been provided, the Food Development team will allocate an appropriate generic menu matching the special medical diet requirements or seek further advice from our in-house Nutritionist for a bespoke menu to be created. |

13.0 Special Diet menu compilation

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| 13.1 | Medical Special Diet applications received by the Food Development Team within 28 days of the end of a menu cycle, may be delayed due to the production of the new menu cycle. This should only affect new applications received during March and September. |
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13.2	Personal food preferences, or dislikes of food on the child's special diet menu, cannot be accommodated as this can cause confusion and increase the risk of error.
13.3	Education Catering medical special diet menus are based on the 14 main allergens; these menus are produced for pupils who regularly have a school lunch. We are unable to provide individual allergen menus for children who only have a school meal on an ad hoc basis.
13.4	All special diet menus are developed from our primary menu and in accordance with individual dietary requirements on a twice yearly basis. Our priority is to ensure that children with special dietary requirements are fed safely and to do this, all meals prepared must strictly follow their menu. This means that our kitchens are unable to cater for theme day adaptations for special diets. We can, however, provide an alternative meal from the child's menu, that may be the same or similar to the theme day lunch, as long as this features on their special diet menu.
13.5	Education Catering Food Development devote their resource on feeding a healthy and nutritious lunch, this means that we are unable to cater for specific special diets for schools that choose to offer a breakfast or morning break/tuck shop service, picnic or 'Streets menu'. We can however provide a full list of ingredients for all the items we offer for breakfast or morning break/tuck shop service. Registration for a medical special diet for these menus only is therefore not necessary.

14.0 Allergy matrix

14.1	An allergen matrix for the current Education Catering menu is available on our website for those parents who wish to manage their child's choice of meal http://hc3primarymenu.mysaffronportal.com
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15.0 Preparation of special diet meals

15.1	Special diet menus will be followed exactly, and substitutes will not be made except in the event of unforeseen circumstances (e.g. supplier availability). The Food development team will only authorise substitutions under unforeseen circumstances.
15.2	Prior to any preparation of special diet meals, work surfaces are thoroughly cleaned with a detergent and then disinfected.
15.3	Special diet meals are prepared using different baking sheets, cooking and serving utensils. The same equipment or utensils will not be used to prepare

	other food items, unless thoroughly cleaned first to prevent cross contamination.
15.4	Due to the possible risk of contamination, school kitchens cannot be classed as 'free from'.
15.5	All catering staff are trained in allergy awareness and food safety to a level commensurate with their role.
16.0 Serving of special diet meals	
16.1	A Special Diet Daily Register is completed in the kitchen. Details are recorded on the daily register to identify which special diet meals are to be prepared that day. The register also acts as a log to record what meal the child was served.
16.2	Children requiring a special diet meal are asked for their orange band on arrival at the service counter.
16.3	The Head of Kitchen (or member of staff acting as Head of Kitchen) will take responsibility on a daily basis to serve all special diet meals.
16.4	In the case of multi-site kitchens (e.g. production and serveries) the Head of Kitchen will nominate another member of the team to support with assisting in the serving of special diets meals in the other site/s.
16.5	Whenever the meal is served, the Special Diet Daily Register will be referred to before handing over the child's special diet meal.