

Nut Policy

Approved by: Trustees

Approved Date: September 2026

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It is not the policy of WNAT to knowingly use nuts in any dishes or recipes. As a company, we make every effort to be nut free, allowing us to accommodate pupils and students with nut allergies. This policy is designed to provide parents and guardians with clear, accurate and up to date information on the products used by WNAT thus allowing an informed decision to be made as to whether or not our meal provision will be suitable for your child and meet their dietary requirements.

If your child has a nut allergy, please complete the recommended notification of dietary requirements form (the school secretary will be able to assist you with the process) and return it to the school along with supporting medical documentation if your child has:

1. A nut allergy only
2. A nut allergy and additional food allergies and, or intolerances;
3. A nut allergy and requires an individual diet due to other medical conditions

Following the introduction of Benedicts Law in 2026 there is increased emphasis on schools to manage those who may be susceptible to an anaphylactic response to an allergic reaction. In some cases individuals may be prescribed with a medical device such as an EpiPen for use during a reaction that must be carried at all times.

If this is the case parents and guardians are to make the school aware and liaise with the school to enable the creation of an Anaphylactic Action Plan (AAP) as per the WNAT Allergy policy.

Whilst we go to extreme lengths to ensure our menus are nut free, some products, from some manufacturers, are produced in factories where nuts have or may have been present. In these circumstances, the supplier will place disclaimers on their products as below. We have no direct control over the manufactures' processes or procedures in their factories.

Manufactures Disclaimers:

- **Contains:** the allergen is an ingredient in the product and therefore deliberately present
- **Made in a factory handling/made on the same line as previously produced etc:** This is used to indicate the presence of the allergen indicated in the manufacturing environments. There are no guidelines as to the use of such statements and the level of actual risk they represent.
- **May Contain/May Contain Traces:** This is used where it is believed there is a risk that the allergen identified may have unintentionally contaminated the product. This could be due to (for example) the allergen being used on the site and cleaning not deemed to be sufficient to remove all traces.
- **Does Not Contain:** This indicates that the product does not intentionally contain the allergen, i.e., it is not in the recipe. Unless otherwise stated, it does not make any reference to the potential for cross contamination.

- **Free From:** This indicates that a product does not intentionally contain the allergen and that the risk of cross contamination is absent for has been rigorously controlled.

The bulk of the product supplied within the food service marketplace are labelled as 'may contain nut' or 'may contain traces of nuts' due to the manufactures covering themselves from any possible litigation costs if their products suddenly are assessed to contain nuts via cross contamination within the manufacturing location and/or their inbound supply chain.

We work very closely with our suppliers and procurement team to ensure we have full nutritional and allergen information for products, where possible, so all data is available to our operational staff. This enables us to produce menus for children with nut allergies.

At WNAT we use a vast range of different food and drink products, so your child is able to enjoy a wide range of nutritionally balanced lunches available to them at their school. If you have any questions with regard to this policy please contact the Executive Head Chef, WNAT.