

The ReConnect Programme

No Nuts Policy

Policy Statement

The ReConnect Programme is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and healthy environment for all students, staff, visitors, contractors, and volunteers. Due to the serious risk that nut allergies can pose, including the potential for life-threatening anaphylactic reactions, ReConnect operates a **No Nuts Policy** across all sites, activities, vehicles, and provisions.

All members of the ReConnect community are expected to support and adhere to this policy at all times.

Purpose of the Policy

This policy aims to:

- Reduce the risk of exposure to nut allergens.
 - Protect students, staff, and visitors with diagnosed or suspected nut allergies.
 - Promote awareness of food allergies and safe practices.
 - Ensure appropriate procedures are followed in the event of an allergic reaction.
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Scope

This policy applies to:

- All students and learners.
- Staff members.
- Volunteers and agency workers.
- Visitors and contractors.
- Parents/carers providing food items.
- External providers using ReConnect facilities.

The policy applies during:

- On-site sessions.
 - Off-site activities and educational visits.
 - Transport arrangements organised by ReConnect.
 - Holiday clubs and enrichment activities.
 - Café and hospitality provision.
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Definition of Nuts

For the purpose of this policy, “nuts” includes, but is not limited to:

- Peanuts
- Tree nuts (e.g. almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts, cashews, pistachios, pecans, Brazil nuts, macadamia nuts)

Products containing nuts or traces of nuts are also included.

Expectations and Responsibilities

Students, Staff, and Visitors

Individuals must not bring onto ReConnect premises:

- Nuts or nut-based products.
- Foods clearly containing nuts.
- Products labelled:
 - “Contains nuts”
 - “May contain nuts”
 - “Produced in a factory handling nuts”

Examples include:

- Peanut butter
 - Nut snack bars
 - Trail mix containing nuts
 - Nut-based chocolates or spreads
 - Cakes or baked goods containing nuts
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Parents and Carers

Parents/carers are asked to:

- Check ingredient labels carefully before sending food into ReConnect.
 - Avoid sending homemade products where ingredients cannot be verified.
 - Inform ReConnect of any diagnosed allergies or medical needs.
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Staff Responsibilities

Staff members are responsible for:

- Promoting awareness of the policy.
- Monitoring food brought into sessions where appropriate.
- Supporting students in understanding allergy safety.
- Following safeguarding and first aid procedures if an allergic reaction occurs.
- Ensuring all food-based activities are risk assessed appropriately.

Relevant staff should be familiar with:

- Individual healthcare plans.
 - Emergency medication procedures.
 - Use of adrenaline auto-injectors where applicable.
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Café, Cooking, and Hospitality Activities

Due to the nature of practical hospitality and cooking sessions:

- Nut products must not be intentionally used within student activities unless specifically risk assessed and approved by senior leadership.
 - Ingredient labels must always be checked before use.
 - Cross-contamination risks must be minimised through safe food preparation and cleaning procedures.
 - Suppliers should be informed where appropriate of ReConnect's No Nuts Policy.
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Allergic Reactions

If an allergic reaction is suspected:

1. A member of staff should seek immediate first aid assistance.
 2. Emergency medication should be administered if trained and authorised to do so.
 3. Emergency services (999) must be contacted immediately in cases of severe reaction or anaphylaxis.
 4. Parents/carers and relevant professionals should be informed.
 5. The incident must be recorded in accordance with ReConnect reporting procedures.
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Breaches of the Policy

Any items found that may contain nuts may be removed and safely disposed of or returned home where appropriate.

Repeated or deliberate breaches of this policy may be addressed through ReConnect behaviour or health and safety procedures.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if:

- Guidance changes.
- A significant incident occurs.
- Operational requirements change.