

Coachford College

Peanut-free Policy



1. General

1.1. Scope

This policy applies to the students of Coachford College, to their parents/guardians and to the staff and volunteers of the school.

1.2. Relationship to the school's mission and characteristic spirit

Coachford College is a community. Together we share mutual respect in a positive environment. We develop individual potential in all fields. As an inclusive post-primary school which aims to provide a secure, welcoming and ordered community, Coachford College seeks to develop the individual potential of each student academically, socially, personally and morally in a safe and healthy environment.

1.3. Context

This policy has been devised following consultation with all members of the school community and in keeping with the school's characteristic spirit and specifically the prioritization of the care of students and personnel. It should be read in conjunction with the school's Health and Safety Statement.

1.4. Rationale

This Policy was drawn up to protect children and adults who have allergies to peanuts, and to reduce the risk to such persons who may suffer a reaction when exposed to peanuts or peanut products. The school aims to encourage students who have allergies to take responsibility regarding the foods which they can eat, and be aware of situations or food items which may place them at risk.

2. Content

Coachford College does not allow peanuts or products containing peanuts to be consumed in school, on school outings or on special school buses.

2.1 Food preparation

Peanuts shall not be used in any food prepared on site at our school.

2.2 Suppliers

The suppliers of food to the school bistro shall provide the school with peanut-free products only. The school recognizes however that its suppliers cannot guarantee that food is prepared in a peanut-free environment, and therefore that food is free from nut traces.

Examples of the many items which should not be consumed in school, on school outings or on special school buses include:

- Packs of peanuts;
- Peanut butter;
- Fruit, cereal and/or chocolate bars containing peanuts;
- Sweets which contain nuts.
- Confectionary containing peanuts.

It should be noted that the list above is not exhaustive.

2.3 Packaging

All product packaging should be checked for warning(s) directed at peanut-allergy sufferers. If any of the following warnings are displayed, the product must not be consumed in school or on school outings:

- Not suitable for peanut-allergy sufferers;
- This product contains peanuts;
- This product may contain peanut traces.

It should be noted that the list above is not exhaustive.

3. Responsibilities of School Partners

3.1 Students' Responsibilities

Each student should ensure that he/she is familiar with the contents of this Policy and adhere to it accordingly. Good hygiene should be practised by students at all times. Hands should be washed frequently to avoid secondary contamination.

Amongst the products of particular concern are various chocolate products which contain peanuts. On special occasions when such products are distributed to students, they should

not be opened by students until they have departed the school building and are in the open air.

3.2. Parents'/Guardians' Responsibilities

Parents/guardians should be familiar with the contents of this Policy and adhere to it accordingly.

The school should be notified of any known or suspected peanut allergy, and all necessary medical information and medication should be provided to the school. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians of allergy sufferers to ensure that instruction regarding the storage of medication is provided to the school, and that all medication is kept up to date.

Parents'/guardians should ensure that all ingredients being sent to school for cookery are peanut-free.

3.3. Responsibilities of Staff and Volunteers

Staff and volunteers must ensure that they are familiar with the contents of this Policy and adhere to it accordingly.

Particular care should be taken at times of the school year when sweets/treats are distributed to students. On occasions when products which contain peanuts are distributed to students, the products should not be opened by students until they have departed the school building and are in the open air. Students should be encouraged to pursue good hand hygiene at all times.

4. Response

4.1 Symptoms of Peanut Allergy

Symptoms of peanut allergy may include:

1. Swollen eyes, lips, genitals, hands, feet and other areas;
2. Itching;
3. Sore, red, itchy eyes;
4. Changes in heart rate;
5. A sudden feeling extreme anxiety or apprehension;
6. Itchy skin or nettle rash;
7. Unconsciousness due to low blood pressure;
8. Abdominal cramps, vomiting, diarrhoea, nausea and/or fever.

It should be noted that this list is not exhaustive.

Anaphylaxis varies in severity. It may cause itching and swelling only, whilst in some cases, can cause sudden death.

4.2. Emergency Response

In the case of presentation of symptoms of anaphylaxis, the procedures set out in the School Safety Statement are followed.

The school's Board of Management approved this Policy on Feb. 05th 2019, as signed by the Chairperson of the Board and by the Principal

It has been made available to all members of the school community, and is posted on the school's website.

The policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and/or as deemed necessary.