

ISS Education Nut Policy 2012: Primary & Secondary Education

Severe reactions (anaphylaxis¹) can be triggered by a wide range of foods, but typically include peanuts, tree nuts and sesame seeds. Research indicates that as many as one in 70 UK children may be allergic to peanuts.² As a company, we make every effort to be nut³ and seed⁴ free hence are able to accommodate pupils and students with nut allergies. It is not the policy of ISS Education to knowingly use nuts or seeds in any of their dishes or recipes.

Whilst we go to extreme lengths to ensure that our menus are nut and seed 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.

- **Contains:** The allergen is an ingredient in the product and is 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. May contain is the statement recommended by the FSA due to its clarity of message.
- **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 any cross contamination is absent or has been rigorously controlled.

¹ Anaphylaxis is an extreme and severe allergic reaction. The whole body is affected, often within minutes of exposure to the substance which causes the allergic reaction (allergen) but sometimes after hours. For more information please visit: www.anaphylaxis.org.uk

² Reference – Anaphylaxis UK Campaign (2012) www.anaphylaxis.org.uk/schools/help-for-schools

³ The term 'nut' refers to both peanuts and tree nuts. Peanuts are a member of the legume family and not botanically related to tree nuts. Common tree nuts include almonds, Brazil nuts, cashews, almonds, chestnuts, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios and walnuts.

People who are allergic to tree nuts should also avoid peanuts and tree nut derivatives because of the risk of cross-contamination. People with an allergy to one type of tree nut have a greater chance of being allergic to other types. **Coconut and nutmeg are not included in the list of tree nuts; however, they can cause allergic reactions, just like any other food. These items are not covered by our nut free policy.** For more information please visit www.allergyuk.org

⁴ Excluding mustard seed

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The bulk of products supplied within the foodservice marketplace are labelled as 'may contain nuts or traces of nuts' due to the manufacturers 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 every product, so all data is available to our operational colleagues. This enables us to produce menus for children with nut allergies^{5,6}.

At ISS Education we use just over 600 different food and drink products in schools (excluding fresh produce). Of these (approximately):

- 86% **do not contain** either peanuts or tree nuts
- 8% **are free from** both peanut and tree nuts
- 4% **may contain** both peanut and tree nuts
- 2% **may contain** tree nuts

At ISS Education we hope your child is able to enjoy the wide range of nutritionally balanced lunches available to them at their school. If you have any questions with regard to this policy, please contact us at: hello@isseducation.com

If your child has any further special dietary requirements, not covered by this policy, please complete and return to us a Special Diet Referral Form, available from your child's school.

⁵ ISS Education cannot be liable for the processes and, or environments of our third party suppliers and manufacturers. We will advise and take account of product information they pass to us when preparing menus for children with notified nut allergies and err on the side of caution which may limit some product choices.

⁶ ISS Education cannot be responsible for any contamination or cross contamination that takes place prior to our receiving the products (examples of this may include contamination that takes place when a manufacturer transports product to stores or to us, contamination arising during the creation of the products, or in any other situation where nuts may have contacted the products).