



NUTFREE POLICY

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Commencing Date:	
Approval Signature:	
Review Date:	

1. Background

Ardnashee School and College is committed to maintaining a safe environment by strictly prohibiting the presence of nuts and nut-based products on school premises. This includes all forms of nuts (peanuts, tree nuts such as almonds, walnuts, cashews, etc.) and products containing nuts or nut derivatives.

2. Purpose and Scope

This policy is designed to create a safe and inclusive environment for all students, particularly those with life-threatening allergies, while promoting awareness and cooperation among the school community.

This policy applies to all students, staff, and visitors to the school.

This policy is applicable to all school premises, including classrooms, common areas, playgrounds, school events (on or off-campus), and transportation services provided by the school.

3. Objectives

The Policy aims to protect students with nut allergies from exposure to nuts and nut-based products in the school environment, which could trigger severe allergic reactions.

4. Procedure/Guidelines

Responsibilities

School Administration

- Ensure all staff, students, and parents/guardians are informed about the nut-free policy.
- Provide training to staff on recognizing and responding to allergic reactions, including the use of EpiPens.
- Ensure all food service providers comply with the nut-free policy.
- Display clear signage throughout the school indicating it is a nut-free zone.

Staff

- Monitor students' food items and snacks brought to school to ensure compliance.
- Supervise students during meal times and encourage a culture of sharing food cautiously.

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- Take immediate action if a student is exposed to nuts or shows signs of an allergic reaction.
- Educate students about the importance of following the nut-free policy.

Parents/Guardians

- Ensure that their child's snacks and meals are nut-free.
- Communicate with the school about their child's specific allergies or any concerns.
- Reinforce the importance of the nut-free policy at home.

Students

- Avoid bringing any nuts or nut-based products to school.
- Inform a teacher or staff member if they see nuts or someone consuming nuts on school premises.

Visitors/Contractors

- Adhere to the nut-free policy while on school grounds.
- Avoid bringing any nuts or nut-based products to the school.

Implementation

Food and Snacks

- All food brought to school by students, staff, or visitors must be checked to ensure it does not contain nuts.
- School lunches provided by the cafeteria or catering services must be nut-free.
- Parents are encouraged to read labels carefully and avoid any food items with warnings of possible nut contamination.

Classroom Activities

- Materials used in classroom activities, such as cooking or arts and crafts, must be free from nuts.
- Special events, including birthdays and celebrations, must comply with the nut-free policy. Any food brought for these events must be pre-approved by the school administration.

Emergency Procedures

- An emergency action plan should be in place for students with known nut allergies, including access to an EpiPen.
- Staff should be trained annually on the administration of EpiPens and first aid procedures.

- In case of exposure, the school nurse or designated staff member should be contacted immediately, and the emergency protocol should be followed.

Communication

- The nut-free policy will be communicated to all stakeholders at the beginning of each school year and upon enrollment of new students.
- Regular reminders will be sent home to reinforce the policy.
- Information about the policy will be available on the school's website and included in parent handbooks.

5. Monitoring/Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed annually by the school administration in consultation with parents, staff, and health professionals to ensure its effectiveness and to make any necessary updates.



NEURODIVERSITY POLICY

	CONTENTS	PAGE NUMBER
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Commencing Date:	SEPTEMBER 2024
Approval Signature:	
Review Date:	

1. Background

Ardnashee School and College is committed to fostering an inclusive environment that recognizes, respects, and celebrates neurodiversity. We believe that every student, regardless of their neurological profile, has the right to an education that is tailored to their individual needs and strengths. This policy outlines our approach to supporting neurodiverse students, including those with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, and other neurological differences.

2. Purpose and Scope

A neurodiversity policy for a Ardnashee School and College involved ensuring that the policy was inclusive, respectful, and supportive of all students. The policy reflects the school's commitment to recognizing and valuing the diverse neurological profiles of its students, promoting their well-being, and providing tailored support to help them thrive.

3. Objectives

The Policy aims:

- To create an inclusive educational environment that supports and values neurodiversity.
- To ensure that all students have access to a curriculum that meets their individual needs.
- To promote understanding and acceptance of neurodiversity within the school community.
- To provide staff with the training and resources needed to support neurodiverse students effectively.
- To engage with families and caregivers as partners in the education and well-being of neurodiverse students.

4. Procedure/Guidelines

Definition of Neurodiversity

Neurodiversity refers to the natural variation in human brain function and behavior, recognizing that differences such as Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia, and others are part of the normal spectrum of human diversity. This concept rejects the idea that neurological differences should be viewed as deficits or disorders, and instead views them as variations that should be respected and supported.

Identification and Support

- **Early Identification:** The school will implement early identification strategies to recognize neurodiverse profiles as soon as possible. This includes regular assessments, observations, and collaboration with parents, caregivers, and professionals.
- **Individualized Education Plans (IEPs):** Every neurodiverse student will have an IEP that outlines their unique strengths, challenges, and the support they require. These plans will be regularly reviewed and updated in consultation with parents, caregivers, and relevant professionals.
- **Multi-Disciplinary Approach:** The school will work with a range of professionals, including educational psychologists, occupational therapists, and speech and language therapists, to provide comprehensive support to neurodiverse students.

Inclusive Education Practices

- **Differentiated Instruction:** Teachers will use differentiated instruction strategies to ensure that the curriculum is accessible to all students. This may include using visual aids, hands-on activities, and technology to support learning.
- **Flexible Learning Environments:** The school will provide flexible learning environments that cater to the sensory and emotional needs of neurodiverse students. This includes quiet spaces, sensory rooms, and the use of assistive technology.
- **Social and Emotional Support:** The school will implement programs to support the social and emotional well-being of neurodiverse students, including social skills groups, peer mentoring, and counseling services.

Staff Training and Professional Development

- **Ongoing Training:** All staff will receive ongoing training on neurodiversity, including understanding different neurological profiles, effective teaching strategies, and how to create an inclusive classroom environment.
- **Specialist Support:** The school will provide access to specialist support and resources, such as behavior support teams and special education consultants, to assist staff in supporting neurodiverse students.

Partnership with Families and Caregivers

- **Collaboration:** The school recognizes the importance of working closely with families and caregivers to support neurodiverse students. Regular communication and collaboration will be encouraged to ensure that the needs of the student are being met both at school and at home.
- **Parent Workshops:** The school will offer workshops and resources for parents and caregivers to help them understand and support their child's neurodiversity.

Promoting a Positive School Culture

- **Raising Awareness:** The school will engage in activities and programs to raise awareness of neurodiversity within the school community, such as assemblies, workshops, and campaigns.
- **Anti-Bullying:** The school will have a zero-tolerance policy for bullying and discrimination. Specific strategies will be in place to protect neurodiverse students from bullying and to educate peers about the importance of inclusivity.

Compliance with Legislation

This policy aligns with the relevant legislation and guidance in Northern Ireland, including the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) framework, the Equality Act, and the Children and Families Act. The school is committed to upholding the rights of neurodiverse students as outlined in these legal frameworks.

Conclusion

Ardnsahee School and College is dedicated to creating an inclusive environment where every student, regardless of their neurological profile, can succeed and feel valued. By implementing this neurodiversity policy, we aim to ensure that all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

5. Monitoring/Evaluation

- The implementation of this policy will be regularly monitored by the school's senior leadership team.
- The policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains effective and relevant to the needs of the school community.

Commencing Date:	September 2025
Review Date:	September 2028.
Signed by Chairperson	Husling Bonner
Signed by Principal	R. A. 