



Nut-Free School Policy

Audience:	School and academy staff, particularly Headteachers and administrative staff
Effective Date: Review Date:	September 2025 September 2026
Other related policies / procedures	
Owner	Estates Manager
Policy / procedure model	MAT policy: all Crofty schools use this policy.

Contents

1.	Purpose	pg. 3
2.	Scope	pg. 3
3.	Policy Statement	pg. 3
4.	Responsibilities	pg. 3
5.	Implementation Process	pg. 3
6.	Exceptions	pg. 4
7.	Policy Review	pg. 4
Appendix 1. Nut-Free School Policy – Parent FAQs		pg. 5

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this policy is to ensure a safe and inclusive environment for all students and staff by minimising the risk of exposure to peanuts, tree nuts, and nut products. Some members of our community have severe, life-threatening allergies (anaphylaxis) to nuts. This policy outlines our commitment to safeguarding their health and well-being.

2. Scope

2.1 This policy applies to all students, staff, volunteers, parents, guardians, visitors, and any external providers operating on school premises or during school-sponsored activities, including trips and off-site events.

3. Policy Statement

3.1 From 1st September 2025, all schools within Crofty Education Trust will operate as nut-free schools. The following will apply:

3.1.1 No peanuts, tree nuts, or food products containing nuts may be brought into school premises.

3.1.2 Food provided by the school, including that supplied by external caterers, will comply with the nut-free policy.

3.2 All staff members will be trained to recognise symptoms of anaphylaxis and administer emergency medication, such as epinephrine auto-injectors (e.g., EpiPens).

4. Responsibilities

4.1 Parents and Guardians: Must ensure that any food or snacks sent to school do not contain nuts or nut products. It is their responsibility to check ingredient labels carefully.

4.2 Students: Are expected to comply with this policy and must not share food items with others.

4.3 School Staff: Must monitor lunch and snack times, educate students on the importance of allergen safety, and enforce the policy consistently and fairly.

4.4 External Providers and Visitors: Must be informed in advance and comply with the nut-free requirements when participating in school activities or providing goods/services.

5. Implementation Process

5.1 Prior to the start of the new school year, a communication campaign (including letters, website updates, posters) will inform all stakeholders about the new policy.

5.2 Staff training sessions on allergy awareness and emergency response will be conducted annually.

5.3 School meals menus will be audited and verified to be nut-free.

5.4 Signage will be placed around the school to remind all parties of the nut-free status.

5.5 Any breaches of this policy will be addressed appropriately, balancing education with disciplinary measures where necessary.

6. Exceptions

6.1 There are no planned exceptions to this policy. It is implemented to prioritise health and safety.

7. Policy Review

7.1 This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner, if necessary, to ensure its effectiveness and to reflect any changes in best practice, legal requirements, or school needs.

Appendix 1. Nut-Free School Policy – Parent FAQs

Nut-Free School Policy – Parent FAQs

Why are Crofty schools becoming nut-free?

Some students have severe, life-threatening allergies (anaphylaxis) to peanuts and other tree nuts. Even a tiny trace can trigger a serious reaction. Our nut-free policy helps provide a safe, inclusive environment for all children.

When does the nut-free policy start?

The policy will be in effect from the beginning of the new school year: Tuesday 2nd September 2025.

Which foods are not allowed under the new policy?

Any foods containing peanuts, tree nuts, or nut products must not be brought to school. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Peanut butter
- Nutella and other chocolate spreads containing nuts
- Cereal or granola bars with nuts
- Cakes, cookies, or biscuits containing nuts
- Trail mixes or snack packs with nuts

Are seeds allowed (like sunflower seeds)?

Yes. Seeds are permitted unless they are processed in a factory that also handles nuts (please check packaging labels carefully). However, please introduce seeds cautiously, as some students may also have seed allergies.

What about food labelled “may contain nuts” or “made in a facility that processes nuts”?

We ask that you avoid products with these warnings where possible. However, if unavoidable, please discuss specific items with the school beforehand.

Is the school catering service nut-free?

Yes. Our catering providers have been instructed to supply only nut-free meals and snacks. They have provided written confirmation that they are complying with the nut-free policy.

What if my child accidentally brings a nut product to school?

If a student accidentally brings a prohibited item:

- The food will be removed and stored safely out of reach.
- Parents will be contacted to collect the item or provide an alternative meal.
- Staff will remind students (in a supportive way) of the importance of the policy.

Can I send in birthday treats or packed lunches?

Yes, but they must be nut-free. Please be vigilant in checking ingredients and choose safe alternatives (fruit, non-nut cakes or biscuits, etc.). Pre-packaged items are preferable so staff can verify ingredients if needed.

How will the school ensure that children with allergies are protected?

- Staff are trained annually in allergy management and emergency care (use of EpiPens, calling emergency services, etc.).
- A clear Allergy Action Plan is in place for affected students.

- Allergy-friendly zones (e.g., allergen-free tables) will be used where necessary.
- Education around allergy awareness will be included in our health and PSHE curriculum.

Who can I speak to if I have concerns or need help finding suitable alternatives?

We are happy to support you with guidance and suggestions for nut-free options. Please contact your school administrator for further information.