

Staples Road Primary School

Staples Road
Loughton
Essex
IG10 1HR



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October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Food Allergy Safety, Birthday Treats, and Snack Policy

At Staples Road Primary School, the safety, health, and wellbeing of every child in our care is our highest priority. As you may be aware, we have a significant number of pupils across the school with severe, life-threatening food allergies (anaphylaxis) to ingredients such as nuts, eggs, dairy, and wheat.

In light of updated statutory Department for Education guidance (**Benedict's Law**) and **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)**, we are updating our school allergy policies to ensure we maintain the highest standards of safety, awareness, and emergency preparedness.

To protect our vulnerable children while still allowing them to celebrate special occasions with classmates, we ask all families to strictly adhere to the following updated guidelines when bringing any food into school:

Strictly Nut-Free School: We operate a strict nut-free policy across the entire school site. No products containing nuts or nut traces (e.g. peanut butter, Nutella, certain snack bars, or baked goods) may be brought onto school grounds at any time.

Commercially Packaged & Sealed Items Only: All birthday treats or shared snacks brought from home must be factory-sealed commercial products with full, legible ingredient and allergen labels attached. **Homemade cakes or treats are strictly prohibited** as ingredients and cross-contamination risks cannot be verified.

Prior Consultation with Class Teachers: Please notify your child's class teacher at least 24 to 48 hours in advance if you wish to send in treats for a birthday or special occasion, so arrangements can be made safely.



Headteacher: Mr Nick Mallender

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Inclusive Alternatives: If bringing in commercial treats, please consider choosing options that cater to children with dietary restrictions, or speak to the teacher so an alternative safe treat can be provided from the pupil's personal safe treat box.

No Food Sharing: Children are taught not to share or swap food or snacks at breaktimes or lunchtimes.

Important Reminders for Families of Children with Medical Conditions/Allergies:

Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs): Ensure your child's IHP and dietary details on record with the school office are completely up to date.

Prescribed Medication: In accordance with KCSIE guidelines, parents must ensure that all required prescribed medication - including up-to-date Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs) - is provided to the school before term starts. Please note that maintaining up-to-date emergency medication is essential for your child's protection and safeguarding.

School Emergency AAIs: In compliance with statutory guidance, Staples Road Primary School maintains spare, emergency AAIs on site, and all school staff receive regular, mandatory training in allergy awareness and anaphylaxis response.

Thank you for your ongoing co-operation and partnership in keeping all our children safe, included, and healthy.

Yours sincerely,



Nick Mallender
Headteacher