

## Frequently Asked Questions - Parents

**1. Q. I think my child/young person has an allergy to certain foods but I am not sure. What should I write on the form?**

*A. If you think your child/young person has a food allergy then we strongly advise you to seek the advice of either a medical or nutritional professional to obtain further information as soon as possible. All allergies that fall outside of the 14 regulated allergens, will require the medical documentation, such as the Allergy Action Plan, in order for AiP Group of Companies to create a bespoke allergy menu.*

**2. Q I have already told you verbally about the food allergy, why do I need to fill in a form?**

*A. We need to keep a written record with details of any food allergies that your child/young person has so that we can share it in an emergency with medical professionals. We also need to ensure that we are sharing accurate information about your child/young person's food allergy with AiP Group of Companies who are the company that provide our catering.*

**3. Q. What is the difference between an allergy, intolerance and medically related special dietary requirements?**

*A. A food allergy is when your immune system mistakenly thinks that certain foods are harmful to their body causing it to react. The symptoms are usually those of 'classic' allergy such as a red raised, itchy rash (urticaria), wheezing, vomiting, severe gut symptoms or (very rarely) sudden collapse. These can occur within a few minutes of eating or coming in to contact with the allergen. A food intolerance doesn't usually involve your immune system. However, coeliac disease is an intolerance to gluten and does involve the immune system. Some medical conditions may require a special diet, such as a modified texture diet for example fork mashed, smooth or pureed. All of the above should be recorded on the form.*

**4. Q. My child/young person requires a specific cultural or religious diets, vegetarian diets, should these be detailed on the form?**

*A. There is no requirement to complete the form, as AiP Group of Companies do not consider cultural or religious diets, vegetarian as 'special diets' as we believe our menus offer a diverse range of foods to cater for pupils for all backgrounds.*

**5. Q. Can your catering partner AiP Group of Companies promise to provide food that is created and served in 'nut free' environments?**

*A. At the AiP Group of Companies we recognise that nut allergies pose a serious threat to everyone's well-being and we have created strict policies to ensure the contamination risk is as low as possible. Below are the practices we follow in our kitchens.*

*Nuts in Food*

*We don't use any nuts (either peanut or any tree nuts) in our kitchens. Neither do we use any ingredients that contain nuts in our kitchens.*

*May Contain Labels*

*All our kitchens purchase ingredients from a centralised buying list. Each item is analysed by a nutritionist before being allowed on the list. Any item that carries a 'may contain' label is researched with the manufacturer before being allowed on the list. We may only allow items that carry a 'may contain' label if the manufacturer can provide proof that nuts are produced in a separate manufacturing building or area. We do not allow items carrying the 'may contain' label where the product is produced on the same production line.*

*Coconut*

*Coconut is not considered a nut and does not fall into the peanut or tree nut allergy categories. We do use coconut in our kitchens.*

**6. Q. My child/young person has packed lunch. Why do I need to complete the form?**

*A. You do not need to complete this form. The contents of your child's lunch is your responsibility. However, if you would like your child to participate in Special/Theme Days such as Christmas Dinner, you will need to complete this form.*

**7. Q. Providing and sharing medical information on of my child/young person with the catering partner AiP Group of Companies.**

*A. Allergens data is considered health data and under the GDPR this is a special category of data which has specific requirements. Legal advice received advises that the only relevant legal basis for the processing of allergens data is explicit consent from the data subject (or in our case the parent/guardian of the student due their age) and it is only with this explicit consent is permitted under GDPR to process the allergens data we receive from you.*

*We ask for this explicit consent from parents/guardians via our Special Diet Information Form.*