

ISS Education Nut Policy September 2017: Primary Education

Severe reactions (anaphylaxis¹) can be triggered by a wide range of foods, but typically include peanuts and tree nuts.² Despite tree nuts being one of the most common foods causing allergic reactions the prevalence of tree nut allergy has not yet been well characterised.³ Research indicates that 5 in 10,000 people in England have a recorded peanut allergy.⁴

It is not the policy of ISS Education to knowingly use nuts⁵ in any dishes or recipes.⁶ As a company, we make every effort to be nut free, allowing us to accommodate pupils and students with nut allergies. This policy is designed to provide parents and guardians with clear, accurate and up to date information on the products used by ISS Education thus allowing an informed decision to be made as to whether or not our meal provision will be suitable for your child and meet their dietary requirements.

Whilst we go to extreme lengths to ensure that our menus are nut 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 manufacturers' processes or procedures in their factories.

Manufacturer's Disclaimers:

- **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.
- **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.

The bulk of products supplied within the foodservice marketplace are labelled as 'may contain nuts' or 'may contain 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.^{7,8}

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 Peanuts are a member of the legume family and not botanically related to tree nuts. Common tree nuts include almonds, Brazil, cashew, chestnut, hazelnut, macadamia, pecan, pine, pistachio and walnuts.

³ McWilliam V, Koplin J *et al* (2015) 'The Prevalence of Tree Nut Allergy: A Systematic Review. *Curr Allergy Asthma Rep* 15(9):54

⁴ Kotz D, Simpson CR, Sheikh A. (2011) 'Incidence, prevalence, and trends of general practitioner-recorded diagnosis of peanut allergy in England, 2001 to 2005'. *The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*.

⁵ The term 'nut' refers to both peanuts and tree nuts. 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 covered by this policy.**

⁶ **This policy does not cover seeds and, or seed oils.** It is not the policy of ISS Education to knowingly use seeds in any of our recipes. However, some products may contain seeds and, or seed oils. If you require further information please refer to our Special Diet Process.

⁷ 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.

⁸ 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).

At ISS Education we use just over 540 different food and drink products in primary schools. None of the items available to and used by schools contain nuts. Of these products, the manufacturers claim on their packaging is as follows⁹:

- Does not contain nuts 98.9 %
- May contain nuts 1.1 %.

A list of these items used by ISS Education containing the disclaimer ‘may contain nuts’ can be found listed in the table below.⁸

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: FDT@uk.issworld.com

If your child has food allergies and, or intolerances or requires a special diet for any additional medical reasons, please complete a Special Diet Referral form (available from your child’s school reception) and return to us, along with a supporting medical referral.

***Products listed which ‘may contain nuts’ 1.1 %.**

Product Code	Supplier	Product Description	May Contain Tree Nuts ²	May Contain Peanuts ²
35262	Bidfood	Yeo Valley: Ubley Low Fat Strawberry Yoghurt	●	●
35269	Bidfood	Yeo Valley: Ubley Low Fat Peach Yoghurt	●	●
35261	Bidfood	Yeo Valley: Organic Bio Live Yoghurt Mixed Case	●	●
35263	Bidfood	Yeo Valley: Organic Strawberry Yoghurt	●	●
35264	Bidfood	Yeo Valley: Organic Peach & Apricot Yoghurt	●	●
35267	Bidfood	Yeo Valley: Ubley Fruit n Creamy Yoghurt Mixed Case	●	●

** Please be aware these claims are the same for split case product codes.*

*** Products covered by this policy are those used on the standard lunch and special diet menus. Information on alternative products which may be used on theme days and other events are not covered by this policy.*

⁹ ISS Education works closely with suppliers and will be continually working to reduce the number of these items available to primary schools and replace them where required with products which state they free from nuts on the packaging.