

**CHARTWELLS LEWISHAM SCHOOLS
SPECIAL DIET PROCEDURE**



OVERVIEW

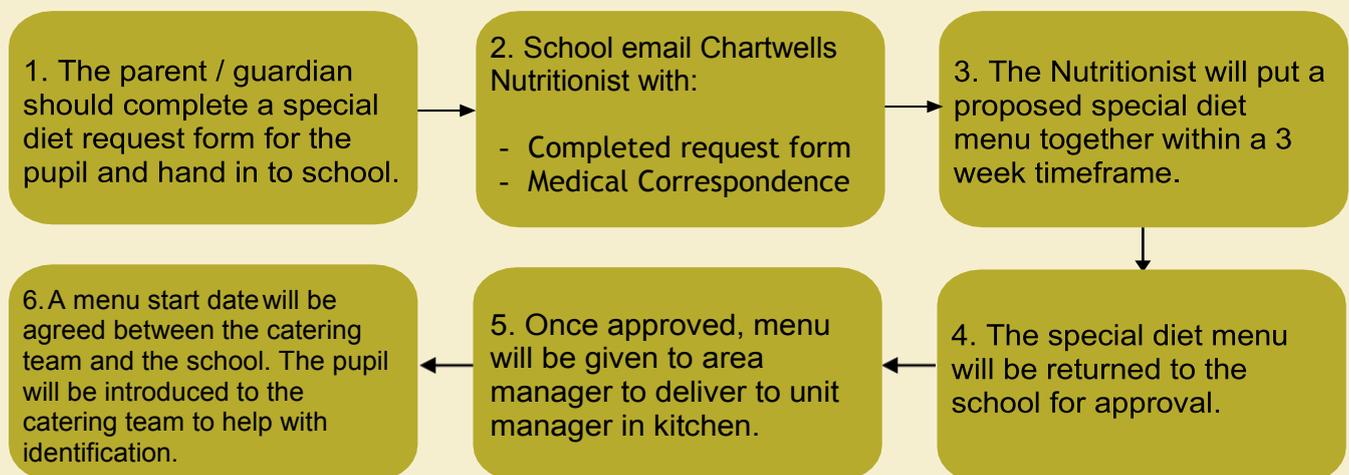
Chartwells are passionate that every pupil has the same opportunity to eat school food regardless of their medical requirements, therefore special diets are an extremely important part of our catering provision. We define a special diet as a requirement different to the choices offered on the main menu due to a food allergy or special or intolerance. Lifestyle choices such as vegetarianism and religious diets are not defined as a special diet as we are confident our main menu offers a variety of different foods to cater for these needs.

Chartwells have a dedicated special diet team which supports all special diet queries and requests. This includes alleviating concerns or creating special diet menus, a special diet nutritionist will be available all year round to support our catering teams. For further information please contact Lewisham contract nutritionist Freya Strutt at Freya.strutt@compass-group.co.uk. Please note there is a 3 week turnaround for all new special diet menu requests. Until the menu is delivered, the child must either have a packed lunch or lunch organised by the school.

SPECIAL DIET – KICK OFF

WHO IS INVOLVED?	WHAT DO YOU NEED?	WHAT WILL YOU RECEIVE?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chartwells Nutritionist• School• Parent• Unit Manager• Area Manager• Pupil• Catering Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special Diet Request Form• Medical Correspondence• freya.strutt@compass-group.co.uk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special Diet Menu

SPECIAL DIET PROCEDURE



Chartwell Staff: IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Always be aware of who is trained to administer adrenaline injections / epipen within the school. The school is responsible for the administration of all medication/first aid and will have their own procedures.

- Dial 999
- Inform headteacher & parent immediately
- Inform HSE manager
- Report on AIR 2 (if no internet access contact HSE department on 0121 457 5194)
- Inform nutrition team

NUT SAFETY STATEMENT

Chartwells will not intentionally use nuts or any product containing nuts as an ingredient within our food offer. Chartwells may carefully use products with a 'may contain' declaration for nuts as long as no nuts are present in the ingredient list, we will treat such items as 'contains' to reduce the risk to our nut allergy pupils. All pupils suffering from a nut allergy should request a 'nut free' special diet menu which will remove these products from the menu. Chartwells do not endorse a complete 'nut free' environment as we believe we have a duty of care to educate our pupils and staff on how to handle and manage their food allergy safely in the school environment in order for them to develop a better awareness to it. This advice is consistent with external governing bodies and charities who state that a complete 'nut free' environment is artificial and not consistent with the real world which can provide pupils with a false sense of security. For further information please contact the Chartwells special diets team.

CULTURAL OR RELIGIOUS DIETS

Chartwells do not treat cultural or religious diets as a 'special diet' as we believe our menus offer a diverse range of foods to cater for pupils for all backgrounds. However we acknowledge that in areas of high ethnicity further support may be required in this case please contact a member of the special diets team for further support. Halal meat can be provided on request to schools where there is a requirement, all halal meat is HMC accredited and Chartwells can provide a 'Halal Operating Statement', please contact your Regional Manager for further information.

MODIFIED TEXTURE DIETS

Some pupils with medical conditions that involve swallowing difficulties (dysphagia) may require a modified texture diet such as fork mashed, smooth or pureed. Chartwells will support these pupils' requirements on an individual basis by working in conjunction with the parent and catering manager to ensure a suitable meal is available each day.

NUTRIENT COUNTS

As per the special diet procedure, Chartwells can provide nutrient counts for the follow nutrients

Carbohydrate Counts (for Diabetes)
Fat Counts (for Cystic Fibrosis)
Protein Counts (for PKU)

VEGETARIAN / VEGAN

Chartwells menus will provide a vegetarian option daily, in addition to one 'meat free' day each week therefore this is not regarded as a special diet. Vegan menus can be provided and should be requested following the special diet procedure above.

CHARTWELLS SPECIAL DIET REQUEST FORM

This form is to be completed by the parent / guardian for children with special diet requirements and returned to the school to forward to Chartwells.

To ensure ultimate transparency this request form must be supported with medical correspondence or the request will not be processed. Parents/guardians should attach an up to date photograph of their child and update if their child's appearance should change significantly to help with identification. All information will be kept strictly confidential.

Please note there is a 3 week turnaround for all new special diet requests. Until the process is complete, the child must have a packed lunch.

PUPIL INFORMATION	
Pupil Name:	
Year Group:	
Allergies / Intolerances:	
PARENT INFORMATION	
Parent / Guardian name:	
Contact Telephone:	
CHARTWELLS INFORMATION:	
Unit Name & Number:	
Unit Manager:	
Contact Telephone:	
Regional Manager:	
Date Requested:	

SPECIAL DIET MENU APPROVAL

Once a proposed menu is received the parent/guardian should sign & date below to confirm approval of menu:

PRINT:

SIGN:

DATE:

*Please
attach a
photograph
of your child.*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY IS MEDICAL CORRESPONDANCE REQUIRED?

Medical correspondence confirming the allergy is required to ensure ultimate safety of the pupil by providing complete transparency of their food allergies or intolerances. It also gives us an indication of tolerance levels and possible reactions to look out for meaning we can provide a much more concise menu for the pupil.

WHAT IF THE PARENT / SCHOOL WON'T PROVIDE A MEDICAL NOTE?

For the safety of the pupil and Chartwells staff special diet requests submitted without a medical note will not be processed.

HOW LONG DOES THE SPECIAL DIET PROCESS TAKE FROM START TO FINISH?

From the moment the special diet team receive a special diet request with all required correspondence there is a maximum turnaround time of 3 weeks.

WHAT FOOD IS THE PUPIL PROVIDED DURING THE THREE WEEK TURNAROUND TIME?

Whilst the pupil is awaiting their special diet menu they can be provided with a suitable jacket potato option or alternatively bring in a packed lunch from home.

WHAT IF THE PUPIL DOESN'T LIKE A RECIPE INCLUDED ON SPECIAL DIET MENU?

The special diet menus are used across a number of schools, by a number of different pupils therefore it is impossible for us to safely cater for individual likes and dislikes. The special diet menu will consist of one hot main meal in addition to suitable jacket potato options so the pupils will always have a choice.

CAN THE PARENT SEND IN FOOD FROM HOME TO BE PRODUCED IN THE SCHOOL KITCHEN?

We believe our special diet menus are balanced and varied and offer our pupils an excellent food offer that meets their needs therefore there is no required need for parents to send in food from home. We understand that in extreme medical conditions where food choice can be extremely limited (e.g. PKU) that specialist foods are provided on prescription to families, in such cases we will work with families on an individual basis.

WHAT DOES 'MAY CONTAIN' MEAN ON PRODUCT LABELS?

Manufacturers use 'may contain' warnings on product labels to warn consumers of a risk of cross contamination during the production stage of an unwanted allergen in the final product. Chartwells policy is that we will ask treat such warnings as 'contains' to reduce the risk to our special diet pupils. Any special diet menu will remove products with 'may contain' declaration for the appropriate allergen.

IS THERE ANY ALLERGY OR INTOLERANCE CHARTWELLS CAN'T OR WON'T CATER FOR?

Every special diet request will be considered however there may be rare occasions when we have to reject a special diet request based on safety concerns for the pupil. For example if the pupils allergies are so highly sensitive the production risk is too great, however this decision is not taken lightly, and we aim to cater for all varieties of allergies and intolerances.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Anaphylaxis Campaign www.anaphylaxis.org.uk

Allergy UK www.allergyuk.org

NHS www.nhs.uk