**Safer Eating and Allergy Management Policy (September 2025 Reforms)**

**Policy Statement**

At Little Acorns preschool, we are fully committed to ensuring that every child’s dietary needs are met safely, and that all mealtimes and snack times are managed with the utmost care. This policy outlines our procedures for managing food allergies, special dietary requirements, and choking risks, in full compliance with the latest EYFS 2025 framework.

**Allergy and Dietary Needs Management**

* Before a child starts at the setting, **detailed information** will be gathered regarding:
  + Food allergies and intolerances
  + Medical dietary needs
  + Cultural and religious dietary preferences
* This information will be:
  + **Documented and stored securely**
  + **Shared with all staff** to ensure awareness and accountability
  + **Reviewed regularly** and updated if any changes are reported by parents or carers

**Allergy Action Plans**

* For children with known allergies, an **Allergy Action Plan** will be created in partnership with:
  + Parents or guardians & Relevant healthcare professionals
* Action plans will be:
  + Displayed in appropriate areas (e.g., kitchen and eating areas) discreetly and respectfully
  + Regularly reviewed and updated as needed

**Named Allergy Lead for Each Child**

* The child’s keyworker and SEN lead will **work together with parents to put in place Allergy Plans individual to the child.** It is the keyworkers responsibility (or Buddy in their absence) to check each child’s food ensuring it is safe and meets their dietary requirements.

**Food Preparation and Labelling**

* All cooking activities and catered event foods will be prepared with allergy awareness in mind:
  + Clear **separation of allergen-containing foods**
  + **Strict prevention of cross-contamination** during preparation and serving

**Choking Prevention Measures**

* + Foods will be cut into age-appropriate sizes
  + Whole grapes, cherry tomatoes, and similar foods will be halved or quartered
  + Tough or sticky foods will be avoided for younger children
* **Children will be seated** in low chairs during all meals and snacks
* Distractions (toys, running, screens) will be minimised during eating

**Supervision and Emergency Preparedness**

* A **Paediatric First Aid (PFA) trained member of staff will be present at all times** during meals and snack times
* Staff will **sit facing the children** to closely observe for signs of choking or allergic reactions
* Children will be closely supervised to prevent food swapping or sharing

I**ncident Management and Reporting**

* Any choking incident or allergic reaction will be:
  + **Responded to immediately** by trained staff
  + **Documented** in the incident log
  + **Reported to parents/carers as soon as possible**
* Near-miss incidents will be regularly reviewed to identify patterns and prevent recurrence

**Staff Training**

* All staff involved in food preparation and supervision will receive training in:
  + **Food hygiene**
  + **Allergy awareness**
  + **Choking prevention**
  + **EYFS-aligned Paediatric First Aid (PFA)**

**Parental Communication**

* Parents will be informed regularly about:
  + Any incidents involving food or allergies

**Alignment with EYFS 2025 Changes**

This policy reflects the new EYFS 2025 section on **Safer Eating**, including requirements that:

A **PFA-trained staff member is present at every mealtime**

* Action plans are in place for **children with allergies**
* Staff are trained in **choking prevention and early response**
* Mealtime environments are designed to enable **effective supervision and safety**

**Signed:** Chairperson  
**Date:** Sept 2025