Parent/Guardian/Carer information for the provision for your child's school meal

Introduction

HES Catering is dedicated to providing your child with a healthy, nutritious, and balanced meal every lunchtime, exceeding the school food standards. We recognize the importance of food safety and are committed to ensuring that any meal consumed by your child is free from any of the 14 EU allergens that you have declared to the school.

To ensure your child's safety, we utilise kitchen management systems that only allow the ordering of dishes that are safe for them. We all play a crucial role in safeguarding children's dietary restrictions, and below we outline the responsibilities of parents, guardians, and our organization to ensure a safe dining experience

Parent/Guardian/Carer responsibilities

- **Informing the School**: Notify the school of your child's allergies or intolerances and, if necessary, provide supporting medical evidence (e.g., a letter from your GP or paediatrician) regarding your child's condition.
- **Seeking Advice**: Obtain medical or dietetic advice if you suspect your child has a medical condition that affects their eating requirements.
- **Providing Information**: Share as much relevant information as possible with the school to assist in creating a suitable menu for your child.
- **Discussing Choices**: Talk with your child and/or their dietician about the menu to help them make appropriate food choices.

School Responsibilities

- **Maintaining Records:** The school must ensure that all allergen information regarding pupils is current and accurate.
- **Informing Catering Staff:** The school is responsible for communicating any relevant allergen information to the catering staff (kitchen and dining centre) to facilitate the provision of suitable meals.

HES Catering Responsibilities

- **Meeting Standards:** Ensure that all menus comply with school food standards.
- **Allergen Information**: Provide allergen and carbohydrate information on menus accessible for schools and parents.
- **Transparency:** Make composite ingredient information and portion sizes available to parents through the Kafoodle website. https://wba.kafoodle.com/15672
- **'May Contain' Statement**: Treat any meal with an ingredient labelled as 'may contain' allergen warning as containing that allergen, meaning it will not be served to the child.
- **Special Menus:** Provide separate menus for children with declared allergies to dairy, gluten, or both.