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# MailOnline

## Nut allergy boy, 7, suffers two heart attacks after 'teacher hands him chocolate HAZELNUT in class'

By [Daily Mail Reporter](#)

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- **'My son could have died', says horrified mother**

A schoolboy with a nut allergy suffered two heart attacks after a teacher apparently handed him a chocolate with a whole hazelnut inside it.

Rehan Butt, seven, had a massive allergic reaction and had to be rushed to hospital where he was hooked up to a ventilator to help him breathe.

His family said staff at the Bradford school had been aware of the boy's allergy since he started there three years ago.

It appears the youngster was handed the treat by a substitute teacher but his mother said there was a board in class with pictures of which children were allergic to what.



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**Rehan Butt, seven, had a massive allergic reaction after biting into the chocolate and had to be rushed to hospital where he was hooked up to a ventilator to help him breathe**

Rehan was handed the Quality Street chocolate with a hazelnut in it at the end of the school day on Tuesday and began eating it.

His mother then saw him spit it out at the school gate and a few minutes later noticed his complexion change and face swell.

She immediately gave him a shot from an EpiPen - a boost of adrenaline - which he carried on him. But it failed to make an immediate impact, and an ambulance was called to the school.



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**Rehan's mother saw him spit the chocolate out at the school gate and a few minutes later noticed his complexion change and face swell**

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It is thought a substitute teacher at St Matthew's C of E Primary School in Bradford was handing out chocolates because it was a child's birthday and handed Rehan the 'Big Purple One' from a selection box.

His mother, Razwana Butt, 28, said: 'The chocolate was given to him but he didn't tell me until he had eaten it. When I saw him he had the purple wrapper and then his eyes started to swell up about 10 minutes later.

'He was saying he was finding it difficult to breathe and he was panicking. We called an ambulance and luckily it arrived really quickly.

'They gave him adrenaline and oxygen and then we got to Bradford Royal Infirmary.

'When we got to the hospital he went into cardiac arrest and his heart stopped twice. Luckily, he came round after CPR.

'We really want to raise awareness of how dangerous giving a child the wrong thing can be, because it could have been much worse, Rehan could have died.'

The boy's aunt Farzana Hussain, 26, said: 'We have been really let down by the school and it's not a small thing that has happened here.

'Rehan has a serious allergy, he suffered two cardiac arrests and one respiratory arrest because he ate that sweet. He couldn't breathe on his own and he had to be hooked up to a ventilator.



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**It is thought chocolates were handed out because it was a child's birthday and Rehan was handed the 'big purple one' from a Quality Street selection box**

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'He has been going to that school for three years and everyone there knows about his allergies and how serious they are. I just can't believe that someone would give him a chocolate with a nut in.

'By the time he had bitten into it and realised what had happened it was too late.'

Rehan was transferred from Bradford Royal Infirmary (BRI) to the Intensive Care Unit at Leeds General Infirmary before being taken back to BRI at about 5pm on Wednesday afternoon, where he is still staying.

Mrs Butt, a civil servant, said: 'I don't know how this could have happened, in the school's classroom they have an allergy board which has each child's picture on it and what they are allergic to.

'My sister always reminds people that he is allergic to nuts at birthday parties and all the children in his class know he is allergic to them.

'I went to see the head teacher to tell them how badly it had affected Rehan. He apologised to me.

'Luckily Rehan is off the ventilator now but he is very disorientated. We have been talking to him about his friends from school and he doesn't remember them.

'After one of his family came to see him, we were talking to him about it later and he couldn't remember the visit.'



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**Rehan suffered a severe allergic reaction outside the gates of St Mathews C of E primary School in Bradford**

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She added: 'We were told that Rehan could have suffered brain damage if the ambulance hadn't got there so quickly and given him oxygen. He is much better now and is able to sit up in bed.'

Head teacher Bob Curran said in a statement: 'We can assure Rehan's family that there will be a full investigation into the incident.

'We wish Rehan and his family all the best for his recovery.'

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How sad, for all concerned.

- Pete, Surrey, 28/1/2011 16:31

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Rehan is the 7 year old , the supply teacher that was at school for the period his normal teacher was absent, is it not the duty of all supply teachers agency to ask/ or check the medical requirements/needs of the students they are teaching. this is time for schools to change policy when recruiting supply teachers, rehan wishing you may a full and heathly recovery

- sara naz, bradford, 28/1/2011 16:30

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A warning here to all those who bemoan political correctness, and strict health and safety laws. They are suggested and implicated for a reason and have improved the lives of many, when they are overlooked this is what happens. If schools were properly funded the child would have a regular teacher who would be properly trained to understand the needs of the class. It is understandable how a supply teacher filling in, may be too busy and not have been formally warned of the individual child's condition. Although I am surprised teachers are allowed to hand out any food or drink stuff these days. I can't remember it happening 40 years ago, people had allergies then, some that brought on asthma attacks. But staff were all permanent and plentiful in those days, so everyone was aware.

- mal, london, 28/1/2011 16:28

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"I have been a teacher for more years than I care to remember. I would NEVER accept responsibility for a child with such a dangerous allergy" So you'd refuse to teach a child because he has a nut allergy? What an over the top stupid response. As a teacher you should know better, shame on you.

- Tony M, Where the expats are not, 28/1/2011 16:19

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As a primary school teacher I have noticed it has become much more common in the last couple of years for children to bring sweets or cakes into school for their classmates to share on their birthdays. - Lynn, Kent UK, 28/1/201 Last couple of years?? It was mandatory back when I was in primary school in the 90s!

- Dan, Manchester, 28/1/2011 16:17

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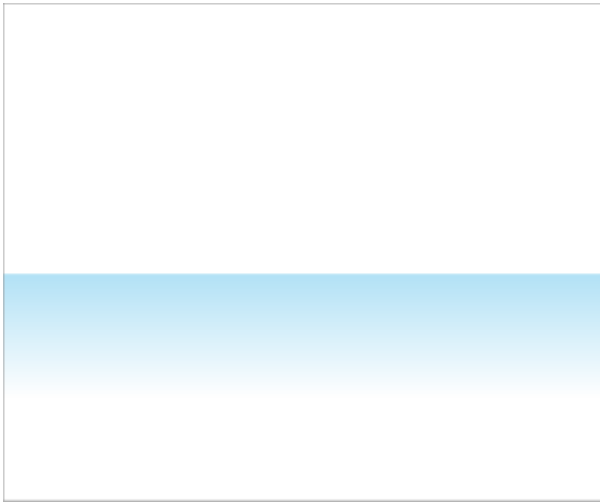
A teacher who knows no better than to hand any nut products out in class in this day and age has NO RIGHT TO BE TEACHING. Why all the red arrows? It showed a total disregard for health and safety-there was even a board up in the classroom relating to the issue. In some schools NO nut products are allowed anymore. Anyone of you saying the child should have known better obviously don't know many 7 year olds. Besides which, had the child been special needs would you still feel she wasn't at fault? She wouldn't be allowed anywhere near my children. I wish the child a fast recovery.

- Marie, Kidderminster, 28/1/2011 16:10

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