

Allergy Management Policy

Applicable to:	Responsible Officer	Date Adopted	Date to be reviewed:
All Staff	Headteacher	September 2026	Annually

1. Policy Statement

This school is committed to ensuring the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all pupils with allergies. We recognise that allergies can be life-threatening and that anaphylaxis requires immediate and effective action.

This policy has been developed in line with the Department for Education's latest statutory guidance on supporting pupils with medical conditions and allergies, replacing previous non-statutory advice, and reflecting the requirements introduced under Benedict's Law from September 2026.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All pupils with diagnosed or suspected allergies
- All staff (including teaching, support, catering, transport and site staff)
- Volunteers and contractors
- School trips, residential visits and off-site activities

3. Legal and Statutory Framework

This policy is informed by, and complies with:

- **Children and Families Act 2014 – section 100** (duty to support pupils with medical conditions)
- **DfE statutory guidance: Supporting pupils with medical conditions and allergies** (draft statutory guidance 2026)
- **Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2017**
- **Food Information Regulations 2014**
- **DfE allergy safety measures (March 2026)** introducing mandatory allergy policies, staff training and spare adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs)

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Local Academy Committee

- Ensures this policy is in place, reviewed annually, and effectively implemented.
- Seeks assurance that statutory allergy requirements are met.

Headteacher

- Has overall responsibility for allergy management.
- Ensures staff training, emergency procedures and resources are in place.
- Ensures compliance with statutory guidance.

All Staff

- Must complete allergy awareness and anaphylaxis training.
- Must be able to recognise symptoms of allergic reactions.
- Must act immediately in an emergency.

Parents/Carers

- Provide accurate medical information and prescribed medication.
- Work with the school to develop and review Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs).

5. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

- Every pupil with a diagnosed allergy will have an Individual Healthcare Plan.
- Plans will detail:
 - Allergens and triggers
 - Symptoms and action to be taken
 - Medication required (including adrenaline auto-injectors)
 - Emergency procedures
- IHPs are reviewed at least annually or sooner if needs change.

6. Medication and Emergency Response

Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs)

- The school holds spare, in-date adrenaline auto-injectors for use in emergencies.
- Spare AAIs are stored securely but are immediately accessible at all times.
- Spare AAIs may be used:
 - If a pupil's own device is unavailable or has malfunctioned
 - For any person experiencing suspected anaphylaxis in an emergency, in line with regulations.

Emergency Procedures

- Any suspected anaphylactic reaction is treated as a medical emergency.
- Staff will:
 1. Administer adrenaline immediately
 2. Call 999
 3. Inform parents/carers
 4. Record and review the incident

7. Staff Training

- All staff receive regular allergy and anaphylaxis awareness training.
- Training includes:
 - Recognising symptoms of allergic reactions
 - Use of AAIs
 - Emergency response procedures
- Training is refreshed regularly and for new starters.

8. Food, Catering and Allergens

- The school works closely with caterers to ensure compliance with food allergen legislation.
- Allergen information is clearly available for food provided by the school.
- Pupils with allergies are supported to safely access school meals.
- Menu changes are checked to ensure allergens are properly managed.

9. Inclusion, Education and Prevention

- Pupils with allergies are fully included in school life.
- The school promotes a whole-school allergy-aware culture.
- Measures may include:
 - Age-appropriate education for pupils
 - Risk assessments rather than blanket food bans
 - Reasonable adjustments for trips and special events

10. Record-Keeping and Review

- All allergy incidents are recorded and reviewed.
- Lessons learned are used to improve practice.
- This policy is reviewed annually or sooner if guidance changes.

11. Monitoring and Compliance

The Headteacher reports to the Local Academy Committee on:

- Policy implementation
- Staff training compliance
- Allergy incidents and actions taken

Related Policies

- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Educational Visits Policy

Annex 1

ALLERGY & ANAPHYLAXIS – STAFF CRIB SHEET

Every allergic reaction is serious.

Anaphylaxis is life-threatening – ACT IMMEDIATELY.

1. KNOW WHO IS AT RISK

- Be aware of pupils with **allergies** in your class/group.
- Check **Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)** and allergy action plans.
- Know **where medication is kept** (pupil AAI and spare school AAI).

2. COMMON ALLERGY SIGNS

Mild / early signs

- Itchy mouth, lips or throat
- Rash or hives
- Nausea or stomach pain

SEVERE – ANAPHYLAXIS (EMERGENCY)

- Difficulty breathing / wheezing
- Swelling of lips, tongue or throat
- Collapse, dizziness, pale or floppy
- Hoarse voice or persistent cough

If in doubt, treat as anaphylaxis.

3. IF YOU SUSPECT ANAPHYLAXIS

DO NOT WAIT

1. **Give adrenaline immediately**
 - Use the pupil's own AAI, or the **school's spare AAI** if needed
2. **CALL 999** – say “Anaphylaxis”
3. **Send for help** (another adult)
4. **Lay pupil flat** (or sit if breathing difficult – **do not stand**)
5. **Stay with the pupil until help arrives**

Never delay adrenaline

Do not give food or drink

4. AFTER THE INCIDENT

- Inform the Headteacher / senior leader immediately
- Parents/carers must be contacted
- The incident **must be recorded**
- Review what happened and any lessons learned

5. SPARE ADRENALINE AUTO-INJECTORS (AAIs)

- The school holds **in-date spare AAI**s
- Stored centrally and **accessible at all times**
- Can be used **if a pupil's own AAI is unavailable or misfires**
- Can be used in an emergency to save a life



6. FOOD & ALLERGEN AWARENESS

- Never assume food is “safe”
- Check allergen information if supervising food
- Be alert during:
 - Lunchtimes
 - Cooking activities
 - Parties, trips and special events
- Report concerns immediately

7. INCLUSION & PREVENTION

- Pupils with allergies must be fully included
- Follow risk assessments – no informal food swaps
- Report any bullying related to allergies
- Ask if unsure – do not guess

8. KEY MESSAGE

All staff are trained and authorised to act.
You are expected to use an AAI in an emergency.
Taking action can save a life.