Asthma and Allergies Policy

2026/27

Our School Vision

Our Christian faith underpins the life of the school, and through God's enduring love, we create a nurturing and caring environment where our pupils develop in body, mind and spirit. Through love, patience and kindness, our children are encouraged to learn and grow together to realise their full potential.

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13

Purpose and Aims

The school is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all pupils, including pupils with allergies.
Allergies can be a serious medical condition and, in some cases, exposure to an allergen can result in anaphylaxis, which is a potentially life-threatening emergency.
The purpose of this policy is to:

- reduce the risk of pupils being exposed to known allergens
- ensure that pupils with allergies are appropriately identified and supported • ensure that staff understand how to recognise an allergic reaction and respond appropriately
- ensure that appropriate emergency arrangements are in place
- ensure that pupils with allergies are able to participate fully in school life
- provide clear arrangements for the management of allergies during lessons, mealtimes, playtimes, clubs, trips and other school activities
- ensure that allergy-related incidents and near misses are recorded, reviewed and used to improve practice
- promote an allergy-aware culture throughout the school

The school will adhere to the Department for Education's Allergy safety in schools statutory guidance, published in July 2026. Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 places duties on maintained schools, academies and PRUs concerning arrangements for supporting pupils with medical conditions. The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 introduced additional requirements concerning allergy safety, including the requirement for schools to have an allergy safety policy.
The school will keep this policy under review and update it when further allergy safety regulations or revised statutory guidance come into force.

Legislation, Statutory Guidance and Related Policies

This policy has been developed with regard to relevant legislation and statutory guidance, including:

• Children and Families Act 2014, including sections 100, 100A and 100B
• Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, including section 34
• Equality Act 2010
• Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
• Human Medicines Regulations 2012, as amended
• Food Information Regulations 2014
• Requirements for School Food Regulations 2014
• Department for Education, *Allergy Safety in Schools: statutory guidance* (2026)
• Department for Education, *Supporting Pupils at School with*

Medical Conditions: statutory guidance

This policy should be read alongside the school's: Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy; Administration of Medicines Policy; First Aid Policy; Health and Safety Policy; Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy; SEND Policy and SEND Information Report; Equality Policy; Educational Visits Policy; Risk Assessment procedures; and relevant food and catering procedures

Definitions

Allergy

An allergy occurs when the body's immune system reacts abnormally to a normally harmless substance, known as an allergen.
Allergens may include:

- foods
- insect stings
- medicines
- contact allergens
- airborne allergens
- other substances identified by a healthcare professional

Anaphylaxis

Anaphylaxis is a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. It can affect the airway, breathing and circulation and requires immediate emergency treatment. **Adrenaline auto-injector (AAI)**

An adrenaline auto-injector is a medical device prescribed for an individual at risk of anaphylaxis. **Neffy**

Neffy (official name in the UK is EURNeffy) is a nasal spray which delivers adrenaline. It is a needle-free alternative to an adrenaline auto-injector approved. **Spare adrenaline auto-injector**

A spare AAI is an emergency device held by a school for use in accordance with the applicable legislation, guidance and the school's emergency procedures.

Responsibilities

Governing Body

The Governing Body will:

- ensure that the school has an allergy policy
- ensure that the policy is reviewed at least annually
- ensure that the policy is published on the school's website
- provide appropriate oversight of allergy safety
- ensure that sufficient resources are available to implement this policy
- ensure that the school has appropriate arrangements for staff training
- monitor significant incidents and lessons learned
- ensure that the school has regard to current DfE statutory guidance

Headteacher

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for implementing this policy and will:

- ensure the policy is implemented consistently
- ensure a named senior leader has responsibility for allergy safety
- ensure staff receive appropriate allergy awareness training
- ensure appropriate Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) are in place where required
- ensure emergency arrangements are understood
- ensure appropriate medication and emergency equipment is available
- ensure risk assessments are completed where appropriate
- ensure serious incidents and near misses are recorded and reviewed
- oversee liaison with parents/carers and relevant healthcare professionals
- ensure relevant information is shared appropriately with staff who need it

Named Allergy Lead (DSL & DDSL)

The named senior leader will coordinate the school's allergy arrangements and will:

- maintain an up-to-date register of pupils with known allergies
- oversee IHCPs and allergy management arrangements
- coordinate staff training
- check emergency medication arrangements
- liaise with parents/carers
- liaise with catering providers
- coordinate reviews following incidents and near misses

All staff

All staff have a responsibility to:

- familiarise themselves with this policy
- complete required allergy awareness training
- know how to recognise the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis
- know how to summon emergency assistance
- know where relevant emergency medication is stored
- follow individual pupil IHCPs and allergy action plans
- take reasonable steps to prevent exposure to known allergens
- maintain appropriate confidentiality
- report concerns, incidents and near misses promptly
- act promptly and reasonably in an emergency

Staff are not expected to make clinical diagnoses or clinical judgements.

Catering staff

As catering is provided internally, the school will ensure that appropriate arrangements and monitoring are in place.

Parents and carers

Parents/carers should:

- provide the school with accurate information about their child's allergy
- inform the school promptly of any changes
- provide prescribed medication and relevant healthcare information
- participate in the development and review of their child's IHCP where appropriate • ensure prescribed medication is within its expiry date

Pupils

Pupils will be encouraged, according to their age and developmental stage, to:

- understand their own allergy and how to stay safe
- recognise symptoms where they are able to know how to seek help
- follow agreed arrangements for avoiding known allergens
- support an inclusive and respectful environment for pupils with allergies

Identification of Pupils with Allergies

The school will seek to identify pupils with allergies as early as reasonably possible.
Information may be obtained through:

- admission information
- parent/carer declarations
- medical information forms

- transition information from previous schools or settings
- healthcare professionals

Parents/carers should notify the school of any diagnosed or suspected allergy. The school recognises that a child may experience their first allergic reaction while at school. Allergy safety arrangements will therefore not be limited only to pupils with known allergies.

Individual Healthcare Plans (ICHP)

Where a pupil requires specific arrangements to manage their allergy or avoid allergens, the school will use an Individual Healthcare Plan. The IHCP will be developed in partnership with the pupil, parents/carers and, where appropriate, relevant healthcare professionals. The school will not make clinical judgements. Clinical advice and action plans provided by healthcare professionals will be followed.

ASTHMA: All children on the register should have a GP Asthma Care plan or emergency individual asthma plan especially those on Mart therapy who do not use salbutamol.

1. **Plan Duration**: Once the individual plan has expired, families can complete the emergency asthma plan. This plan remains valid for the entire duration of the child's time in school.
2. **New students**: On entry to the school, parents/carers should provide an asthma care plan alongside medication. In the event of the pupils care plan being out of date, school will request an emergency care plan and parents/carers should contact their GP/asthma nurse. 3. **Residential Trips:** For students participating in residential trips, parents are required to fill out medication administration forms. Additionally, it is essential to ensure that an asthma and allergy plan accompanies the child during the trip.

ALLERGY: If a child has an Auto Injector pen, they must have an Allergy Plan and should not be in school without one. All parents should be given a plan on the administration of an autoinjector pen. They only need updating if there is a change in medication or allergy.
Children with serve anaphylaxis should also have an Individual Health care plan.

Children with Mild allergies and over the counter treatment do not require an allergy plan or IHP.

● School Health can chase the allergy team if this is not in school's contact details: Tel: 02085107729 or Email: huh-tr.allergyservice@nhs.net

Reducing the Risk of Exposure

The school will take reasonable and proportionate steps to reduce the risk of pupils being exposed to allergens known to cause them harm.
Measures may include:

- clear communication of relevant allergy information to staff
- appropriate seating arrangements and appropriate supervision at mealtimes
- appropriate food management

- handwashing and cleaning procedures
- avoiding sharing of food
- appropriate management of food brought from home
- appropriate arrangements for cooking and food technology
- consideration of allergens during practical activities
- appropriate management of classroom materials
- consideration of allergies during events and celebrations
- appropriate risk assessments for trips and activities where necessary
- The school's priority is to understand individual risks, minimise exposure and maintain robust emergency arrangements.

Food and Catering

The school recognises that food allergy presents particular risks. The school will ensure that food allergens are identified and managed appropriately with relevant allergen information available. The school will not require a pupil with an allergy to accept food where the ingredients or allergen status cannot be safely established.

Allergy Awareness and Staff Training

The school is committed to training all staff annually to give them a good understanding of allergy. All staff will be expected to understand the school's allergy safety arrangements and complete allergy awareness training. Staff will not be expected to diagnose an allergic reaction. Where anaphylaxis is suspected, staff should follow the pupil’s allergy care plan procedures and act promptly.

Emergency Response

Anaphylaxis is a medical emergency. If a pupil or other person is suspected of experiencing anaphylaxis, staff must:

1. Stay with the person and raise the alarm.
2. Call 999 and state that anaphylaxis is suspected.
3. Administer the person's prescribed adrenaline auto-injector without delay, where available and appropriate.
4. Follow the pupil's IHCP
5. Keep the individual under continuous supervision.
6. Follow the instructions of the emergency services.
7. Record the incident and complete the school's incident reporting procedure. Staff should not delay the administration of adrenaline while attempting to obtain a diagnosis. If an individual experiences a life-threatening emergency, anyone may take reasonable action to save their life. Staff should act reasonably and to the best of their ability.

Spare Adrenaline Auto-injectors

The school maintains appropriate arrangements for spare adrenaline auto-injectors in accordance with the legislation and current DfE guidance. Where spare AAIs are held, they will be stored in an appropriate, clearly identified location and be readily accessible in an emergency.

Medication

Prescribed adrenaline auto-injectors and other allergy medication will be managed in accordance with the school's policy. A pupil's prescribed emergency medication must accompany them on educational visits and other activities away from the normal classroom environment.

Educational Visits

The school will ensure that allergy safety is considered as part of educational visit planning. The pupil's prescribed adrenaline device will accompany them. Where appropriate, spare emergency medication will also be considered.

Serious Incidents and Near Misses

The school will record and review serious allergy-related incidents and near misses. A serious incident includes an event in which a person with an allergy is harmed or placed at immediate and significant risk of harm, including where emergency medication, urgent clinical intervention or emergency services are required. A near miss includes an event which did not result in harm but had the clear potential to do so. Where appropriate, the school will notify parents/carers, healthcare professionals, the local authority, catering provider or other relevant body. Any incident that meets the criteria for statutory reporting will be reported through the appropriate process.