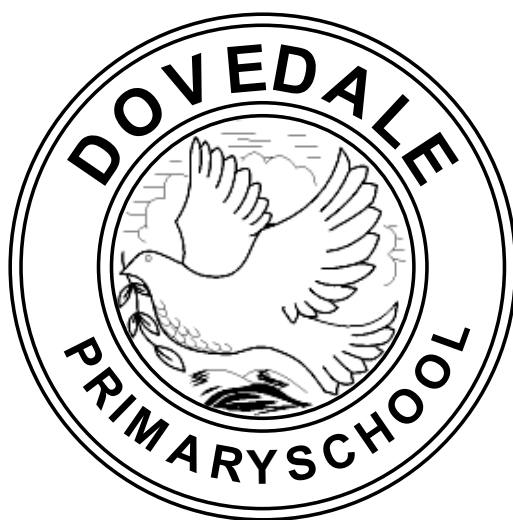


Allergy Awareness, Anaphylaxis and Medication Policy

Dovedale Primary School



Approved by:	Governing Body	Date: September 2026
Last reviewed on:	New policy	
Next review due by:	September 2028	

Policy Statement

Dovedale Primary School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all pupils, including those with allergies, asthma and other medical conditions. We recognise that allergies can be life-threatening and that prompt, effective management is essential to safeguard pupils' health and wellbeing.

We are committed to developing and maintaining an allergy-aware culture across the whole school. Allergy management is a shared responsibility involving staff, pupils, parents/carers, healthcare professionals and visitors. We aim to enable pupils with allergies to participate fully in all aspects of school life without unnecessary exclusion whilst taking all reasonable steps to minimise risk.

This policy has been developed in line with current UK legislation and guidance, including:

- The Children and Families Act 2014
- The Department for Education statutory guidance: *Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions*
- The Department for Education statutory guidance: *Allergy Safety in Schools* (2026)
- The Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2017 (Spare Adrenaline Auto-Injectors)
- The Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2014 (Emergency Salbutamol Inhalers)
- The Equality Act 2010
- School Food Standards and associated Department for Education guidance
- Relevant guidance from the Department for Education and Department of Health and Social Care

Context

Dovedale Primary School is a four-form entry primary school. The school employs a range of staff trained in first aid, with all staff receiving basic first aid awareness and several staff holding current Paediatric First Aid qualifications. The school works proactively to support pupils with allergies and asthma, ensuring that staff are aware of individual medical needs, emergency procedures and strategies to reduce the risk of allergic reactions.

This policy applies throughout the school day, including breakfast club, wraparound care, after-school clubs, educational visits, sporting activities and any activities organised by or on behalf of the school.

Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- Protect pupils with allergies, asthma and medical conditions.
- Promote an allergy-aware culture across the whole school community.
- Reduce the risk of allergic reactions occurring within school.
- Ensure staff understand their responsibilities in preventing and responding to allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
- Provide clear procedures for the storage and administration of medication.
- Ensure pupils with allergies are able to participate fully in school life wherever reasonably practicable.
- Promote effective partnership working between parents/carers, healthcare professionals and school staff.

Identification of Pupils with Allergies

Parents/carers must inform the school of any diagnosed allergies or medical conditions during admission and whenever circumstances change.

Where appropriate, parents/carers will be asked to provide:

- Medical evidence or diagnosis.
- Details of known allergens.
- An Individual Healthcare Plan (where required).
- Prescribed medication, including adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) and inhalers.

The school will maintain an up-to-date register of pupils with allergies and medical conditions using Medical Tracker.

Where a pupil receives a new diagnosis or their medical needs change, relevant staff will be informed promptly and healthcare plans, risk assessments and medication arrangements will be updated as soon as reasonably practicable.

Individual Healthcare Plans

An Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) will be developed for pupils whose allergy or medical condition requires one, following discussion with parents/carers and, where appropriate, healthcare professionals.

Healthcare plans may include:

- Details of diagnosed allergies or medical conditions.
- Known allergens and avoidance strategies.
- Signs and symptoms of mild and severe allergic reactions.
- Required medication.
- Emergency procedures.
- Arrangements for school meals where appropriate.
- Arrangements for educational visits, sporting activities and extracurricular clubs.
- Contact details for parents/carers and relevant healthcare professionals.

Healthcare plans will be reviewed at least annually or sooner where medical needs change.

Food Provision and Catering

The school recognises the importance of safe food provision for pupils with food allergies.

Where appropriate, the school will:

- Ensure catering staff are informed of pupils with diagnosed food allergies.
- Work with parents/carers and catering providers to support pupils' dietary requirements.
- Ensure allergen information for school meals is available and maintained.
- Consider the risk of allergen cross-contamination during food preparation and service.
- Ensure reasonable adjustments are made where medically required.
- Encourage open communication between school, catering providers and families regarding dietary needs.
- Liaise with parents before planning a cooking session in the classroom.
- Ensure junk modelling boxes are allergen safe (egg boxes, seeds, etc.)
- Ensure safe choice of rewards involving food.

Storage of Medication

Adrenaline Auto-Injectors

Prescribed adrenaline auto-injectors will be stored within the pupil's classroom in a clearly identified and easily accessible location known to staff.

The school also maintains emergency spare adrenaline auto-injectors through its subscription with Kitt Medical. These may be used in accordance with national guidance where a pupil is known to be at risk of anaphylaxis and appropriate parental consent has been obtained.

Inhalers

Pupils' prescribed inhalers will be stored within their classroom in an easily accessible location.

The school also maintains an emergency salbutamol inhaler for use in accordance with current legislation and guidance.

Other Medication

Medication required during the school day will be stored securely in the school office unless an Individual Healthcare Plan specifies otherwise

Administration of Medication

Medication will only be administered where:

- A parent/carers has completed and signed the school's medication administration form.
- The form clearly states the medication name, dosage, frequency and timing requirements.
- The medication is provided in its original packaging with the pharmacy label attached where applicable.

Office staff are authorised to administer medication in accordance with the completed consent form and school procedures.

A record will be kept of all medication administered, including:

- Date and time.
- Name of pupil.
- Medication administered.
- Dose given.
- Name and signature of staff member administering the medication.

Parents/carers will be informed of any concerns relating to medication administration.

Allergy Prevention Measures

Dovedale Primary School will:

- Promote effective handwashing practices.

- Encourage pupils not to share food or drinks.
- Ensure staff are aware of pupils with allergies.
- Inform supply staff, volunteers, students and visitors of relevant allergy information and emergency procedures where appropriate.
- Consider allergy risks when planning educational visits, activities, sporting events and school celebrations.
- Undertake individual risk assessments for pupils with severe allergies where necessary.
- Ensure classroom activities involving food, cooking, tasting, science, art or other potential allergens are appropriately risk assessed.
- Operate as an egg and nut allergy-aware school. Measures will be taken to minimise the presence of these allergens wherever reasonably practicable. The school cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment and all members of the school community are expected to follow allergy awareness procedures.

The school cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment but will take all reasonable steps to minimise risk.

Recognising an Allergic Reaction

Mild to Moderate Reaction

Symptoms may include:

- Itching or tingling.
- Rash or hives.
- Swelling of lips, face or eyes.
- Abdominal pain.
- Nausea or vomiting.

Severe Allergic Reaction (Anaphylaxis)

Symptoms may include:

- Difficulty breathing.
- Wheezing.
- Persistent cough.
- Swollen tongue or throat.
- Difficulty speaking or swallowing.
- Dizziness or collapse.
- Loss of consciousness.

All staff should treat suspected anaphylaxis as a medical emergency.

Emergency Procedures

If anaphylaxis is suspected:

1. Administer the pupil's prescribed adrenaline auto-injector immediately.
2. If unavailable, administer the school's emergency adrenaline auto-injector where appropriate.
3. Call 999 immediately and state that anaphylaxis is suspected.
4. Contact parents/carers as soon as possible.
5. Monitor the pupil continuously until emergency services arrive.
6. If symptoms do not improve and a second auto-injector is available, administer it in accordance with current medical guidance.

Any pupil receiving adrenaline must always be taken to hospital for further assessment.

Recording Incidents

All allergy-related incidents, administration of emergency medication, suspected anaphylaxis and allergy-related near misses will be recorded in accordance with school procedures.

Senior leaders will review incidents to identify learning opportunities, improve practice and update Individual Healthcare Plans or risk assessments where necessary.

Staff Training

The school will ensure that:

- All staff receive allergy awareness training, including recognising allergic reactions and emergency procedures.
- All staff receive practical training in the use of adrenaline auto-injectors and emergency inhalers.
- Paediatric First Aid trained staff are available across the school.
- Training records are maintained and reviewed regularly.
- New members of staff, supply staff and volunteers receive appropriate information regarding pupils with significant allergies.

Educational Visits

For off-site visits:

- Relevant medication will accompany the pupil.
- At least one appropriately trained member of staff will accompany pupils where required.

- Staff supervising the visit will be informed of medical needs.
- Venues, catering arrangements and planned activities will be assessed for potential allergy risks.
- Individual risk assessments will be completed where appropriate.
- Emergency contact details and healthcare plans will accompany the visit.

Responsibilities

Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team

The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team will:

- Ensure implementation of this policy.
- Ensure staff receive appropriate training.
- Ensure suitable arrangements are in place for pupils with medical conditions.
- Promote an allergy-aware culture throughout the school.
- Review allergy incidents and near misses to improve practice.

Staff

Staff will:

- Follow Individual Healthcare Plans and emergency procedures.
- Attend required training.
- Take reasonable steps to reduce allergy risks during lessons and activities.
- Report concerns, incidents and near misses promptly.

Parents/Carers

Parents/carers will:

- Inform the school of medical conditions and allergies.
- Provide up-to-date medication.
- Replace medication before expiry dates.
- Complete required consent forms.
- Inform the school promptly of any changes to their child's medical condition.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if there are changes to legislation, statutory guidance or school procedures, or following any significant allergy-related incident.

Policy Review Date: September 2026

Next Review Date: September 2028

Approved by Governing Body: _____