

Bollington St. John's Church of England
Primary School



Where talent grows

Head Teacher: Mrs M. Walker

Head of Teaching, Learning and Assessment: Mrs E. Watson

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord"

Colossians 3:23

Whole School Allergy and Anaphylaxis Policy

Policy Date: 04.03.26

Implementation Date: 1st September 2026

Review Cycle: Annual (or in response to updated statutory framework revisions)

Monitoring Governors: Full Governing Body / Named Safeguarding Governor: Mike Akerman

Designated Allergy Lead (DAL): Melanie Walker (Headteacher)

1. Introduction & Christian Ethos

At Bollington St John's CE Primary School, our Christian values underwrite our commitment to providing a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment where every child is valued as a unique individual. In accordance with our duty of care and safeguarding responsibilities, this policy ensures the physical well-being of pupils living with mild, moderate, and severe food allergies.

This document stands as a standalone policy, strictly fulfilling the statutory mandate of **Section 72 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill (Benedict's Law)** and the revised DfE statutory guidance *"Supporting children and young people with medical conditions and allergy"* (replacing the 2015 guidance).

2. Policy Objectives

- To proactively minimise the risk of exposure to known allergens across all school settings.

- To ensure all staff can confidently identify early signs of an allergic reaction and symptoms of anaphylaxis (a severe, life-threatening allergic reaction).
- To detail clear, fast-acting emergency procedures including the swift administration of Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs).
- To mandate robust record-keeping, reporting, and post-incident analysis for continuous institutional learning.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 The Governing Body & Leadership

- **Named Governor for Allergy Safety:** Will oversee school compliance with Benedict's Law, review incident reports, and verify that audits are conducted. This is Mike Akerman.
- **Headteacher & Designated Allergy Lead (DAL):** Holds day-to-day operational responsibility for maintaining the school's Allergy Register, coordinating individual plans, and overseeing staff training logs. This is Melanie Walker.

3.2 School Staff (Teaching, Support, Lunchtime, and Premises Staff)

- **All Staff:** Must complete annual certified training to recognise allergic reactions and feel competent to administer AAIs.
- **Kitchen & Catering Staff:** Must be fully aware of pupils' specific dietary needs, ensure strict allergen cross-contamination protocols, and verify ingredients rigorously.

3.3 Parents and Carers

- Must provide the school with comprehensive, up-to-date medical details regarding their child's allergies before the start of the academic year (or immediately upon diagnosis).
- Must supply the school with two in-date, clearly labelled AAIs (if prescribed) and promptly replace expired or used devices.

4. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) & Allergy Action Plans

Every pupil with a diagnosed allergy requiring active management will have a formal **Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP)** co-produced by the school, parents, and healthcare professionals.

Component	Purpose / Requirements
Allergen Profile	Specifies exact allergens, historical presentation of symptoms, and severity.
Emergency Contact	Immediate family contact details and secondary emergency backups.
Daily Adjustments	Explicitly lists modifications required for lunchtimes, snacks, and curriculum activities.

Component	Purpose / Requirements
Medical Authorization	Formal consent permitting trained staff to administer prescribed or spare school AAls.

A copy of each child's British Society for Allergy & Clinical Immunology (BSACI) or Allergy UK Action Plan will be kept securely alongside their medication, with an easily accessible copy made available to class teachers and lunchtime supervisors.

5. Daily Risk Reduction & Management Strategies

While it is practically impossible to guarantee a 100% allergen-free environment, Bollington St John's implements rigorous risk reduction measures across the school day:

- **Food & Shared Spaces:** A strict 'no food sharing' and 'no trading' rule is enforced across all year groups. Handwashing with soap and water is mandatory for all pupils before and after eating to remove trace food proteins (hand gel kills bacteria but does not eliminate food allergens).
- **Catering Controls:** The school kitchen maintains a highly visible photographic identification matrix of all children with food allergies. Allergen-safe preparation zones are enforced during food prep.
- **Curriculum & Celebrations:** Food-based projects (e.g., Design & Technology cooking or science experiments) must be vetted against the school's Allergy Register. Birthday treats brought from home must be pre-packaged with intact ingredient labels, or alternative non-food rewards will be used.
- **Educational Visits & Sports Fixtures:** Trip leaders must complete a specific dynamic risk assessment for allergies. The child's prescribed medication package (containing two AAls) and a designated emergency protocol sheet must travel with the designated trip lead.

6. Staff Training Requirements

In compliance with Benedict's Law, allergy training is no longer an optional or localised provision.

Whole-Staff Induction Training: Prior to Sept 1st.

All staff members—including teachers, teaching assistants, lunchtime supervisors, administrative teams, and site caretakers—must complete certified allergy awareness and anaphylaxis training.

Practical Competency & Device Drills: Termly.

Staff will participate in hands-on scenario drills using trainer auto-injector devices (covering EpiPen, Jext, etc.) to ensure practical competence and eliminate hesitation during a time-critical emergency.

New Joiner Fast-Track: Upon Employment.

Any mid-term staff appointments or supply personnel covering long-term absences will receive immediate allergy briefings and fast-track training as part of their essential day-one safeguarding induction.

Emergency Medication & 'Spare' Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs)

The school maintains a central emergency kit holding 'spare' unprescribed Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (purchased via a pharmacy system as permitted under UK human medicines legislation).

- **Purpose:** These spare pens are **not** a replacement for a child's personally prescribed AAIs. They are kept as an emergency back-up if a pupil's personal device fails, is damaged, or if a child experiences first-time, undiagnosed anaphylaxis on site.
- **Storage Location:** Staff room, stored in an unlocked, clearly labelled, and easily accessible container kept at room temperature (never refrigerated).
- **Checking Protocol:** The Designated Allergy Lead will conduct a monthly log check to ensure all school spare pens and individual pupil pens are within their formal expiration dates.

Emergency Response Protocol (Anaphylaxis)

Anaphylaxis is a time-critical emergency. In the event that a pupil exhibits signs of severe allergic reaction (such as swelling of the throat/tongue, difficulty breathing, a persistent cough, dizziness, or loss of consciousness):

SUSPECTED ANAPHYLAXIS



- 1. ADMINISTER ADRENALINE AUTO-INJECTOR (AAI) IMMEDIATELY (Use pupil's own AAI; if unavailable/malfunctions, use spare)**



- 2. CALL 999 & STATE "ANAPHYLAXIS" (Explicitly request an ambulance and paramedic support)**



- 3. POSITION PUPIL & STAY WITH THEM (Lie flat with legs raised, or sit up slightly if breathing is difficult. DO NOT stand them up. Note the time of AAI injection)**



- 4. IF NO IMPROVEMENT WITHIN 5 MINUTES: (Administer a second AAI in opposite thigh)**

Incident Recording, Reporting, and Lessons Learnt

Every instance of an allergic reaction—regardless of whether it required the administration of an AAI or emergency services involvement—must be fully documented within the school's central safeguarding database (e.g., CPOMS).

Statutory Notification: The school will notify the parents/carers immediately. If an emergency AAI is deployed, a formal report will be submitted to the Governing Board and the Local Authority.

Debrief & Policy Review: Following any severe incident, the Designated Allergy Lead will conduct a comprehensive 'near miss/lessons learnt' review with involved staff. This review will evaluate the speed of response, accessibility of medication, and the root cause of allergen exposure, adjusting daily school procedures immediately if gaps are identified.

Policy Publication

This policy will be permanently published on the official Bollington St John's CE Primary School website and will be highlighted to all incoming parents during the transition and admissions process.

Date: March 2026