



BUGLAWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Be the Best We Can

Nut Aware Policy

Approved:
To be reviewed:

Summer 2026
Summer 2027

Written by	Tom Ogden, CMC
Review Frequency	Annually
Date of next review	Summer 2027
Purpose	To raise awareness about allergies to all our school community. To minimise the risk of any pupil, staff or visitor suffering a severe allergic reaction whilst at school or attending any school related activity. To set out a policy for how the school will support pupils with allergies, to ensure they are safe and are not disadvantaged in any way whilst taking part in school life. To encourage self-responsibility and avoidance strategies for pupils. To have robust plans for an effective response to possible emergencies.
Links with other policies	Medical Needs Policy Allergy Policy Food Allergen Policy

Buglawton Primary School is committed to promoting a whole school approach to healthcare, welfare and wellbeing and the safe management of those members of our school community who live with specific allergies. We believe that all allergies should be taken seriously and dealt with in a professional and appropriate way.

All allergic reactions, administration of adrenaline auto-injectors, ambulance call outs, and allergy-related near misses will be recorded by the school. Incidents will be reviewed by the Headteacher and SENCO to identify any lessons learned and any improvements required to school practice, risk assessments, staff training or individual healthcare plans. Records will be retained in accordance with the school's data retention procedures.

The school recognises that living with a severe allergy may affect a child's emotional wellbeing and confidence. Staff will work with pupils and families to ensure children feel included, safe and supported.

Aim

We are not a nut-free school but we aim to be as Nut Aware as we can. It is impossible to provide an absolute guarantee that no nuts will be brought onto the premises but we have adopted a culture of allergy awareness and education.

This policy serves to set out all measures to reduce the risk to those children and adults who may suffer an anaphylactic reaction if exposed to nuts to which they are sensitive. The school aims to protect children who have allergies to nuts yet also help them, as they grow up, to learn to take responsibility and be aware of what foods they can eat, or where they may be put at risk.

Responsibilities

Parent responsibilities

- On entry to the school, it is the parent/carer's responsibility to inform office staff of any allergies. This information should include all previous severe allergic reactions, history of anaphylaxis and details of all prescribed medication.
- Parents are to supply a copy of their child's Allergy Action Plan (BSACI plans preferred) to school. If they do not currently have an AAP this should be developed as soon as possible in collaboration with a healthcare professional e.g. Schools nurse/GP/allergy specialist.
- Parents are responsible for ensuring any required medication is supplied, in date and replaced as necessary.
- Parents are requested to keep the school up to date with any changes in allergy management. The AAP will be kept updated accordingly.
- Be aware of the school Allergy Policy and any arrangements for managing children with allergies and at risk of anaphylaxis.

Staff Responsibilities

- Staff will complete anaphylaxis training. Training is provided for all staff on a yearly basis and on an ad-hoc basis for any new members of staff.
- Staff must be aware of the pupils in their care (regular or cover classes) who have known allergies as an allergic reaction could occur at any time and not just at mealtimes. Any food-related activities must be supervised with due caution.
- Staff leading school trips will ensure they carry all relevant emergency supplies. Trip leaders will check that all pupils with medical conditions, including allergies, carry their medication. Pupils unable to produce their required medication will not be able to attend the excursion.
- The SENCO will ensure that the up to date Allergy Action Plan is kept with the pupil's medication.

- Encourage self-responsibility and learned avoidance strategies amongst pupils living with allergies.
- It is the parent's responsibility to ensure all medication is in date however the SENCO will check the medication kept at school on a termly basis and send a reminder to parents if medication is approaching expiry.
- The SENCO keeps a register of pupils who have been prescribed an Adrenaline Auto Injector (AAI) and a record of use of any AAI(s) and emergency treatment given.

Pupil Responsibilities

- Pupils are encouraged to have a good awareness of their symptoms and to let an adult know as soon as they suspect they are having an allergic reaction.
- Pupils who are trained and confident to administer their own AAIs will be encouraged to take responsibility for carrying them on their person at all times.
- Be sure not to exchange food with others and take care to avoid any foods which may cause an allergic reaction.
- Avoid eating anything with unknown ingredients.
- As soon as they suspect they are experiencing signs of allergic reaction, tell an adult.

Older children and medication

Older children and teenagers should, whenever possible, assume responsibility for their emergency kit under the guidance of their parents. However, symptoms of anaphylaxis can come on **very suddenly**, so school staff need to be prepared to administer medication if the young person cannot.

Management

We ask that all members of the school community manage the day-to-day application of this policy in the following ways:

- Parents and carers are requested NOT to send food to school that contains nuts. This includes all types of whole nuts, nuts as ingredients and any other food containing nuts.
- Staff will be alert to any obvious signs of nuts being brought in, but they will not inspect all food brought into school.
- Pupils that DO bring in food that does contain nuts or nut products will be asked to eat that food away from any child with a nut allergy and to wash their hands before going to play.
- Pupils will be asked NOT to share food.

- Designated members of staff are trained in understanding and dealing with Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions) and will use this training as the need arises.

Catering

The fortnightly school menu is available for parents to view in advance on the school website and enquires should be directed to the Catering Manager.

The SENCO/School office will inform the Catering Manager of pupils with food allergies.

(The school has a system in place to ensure catering staff can identify pupils with allergies e.g. a list with photographs – and the school has responsibility for keeping this up to date by informing the kitchen.)

The school adheres to the following DOH guidance recommendations:

- All catering staff will be trained via our CMC consultant in allergen awareness and labelling regulations.
- As the Food Business Operator the school follows the Food Information Regulations 2014 which states that allergen information relating to the 'Top 14' allergens is available for all food products. This is managed on a day to day basis by the Catering Manager in school and supported by CMC systems.
- The school will ensure that new labelling regulations for Pre Packed for Direct Sale items (PPDS) are adhered to, this is managed on a day to day basis by the Catering Manager in school and supported by CMC systems.
- Some product ingredient lists contain precautionary allergen labelling, i.e. "May contain". It is down to individual preference whether pupils consume products labelled as 'may contain', and this should be included on the Individual Healthcare Plan. The Catering Manager will mark these items on their Allergen Daily Matrix form.
- The pupil should be taught to also check with catering staff, before purchasing food or selecting their lunch choice.
- Food should not be given to primary school age food-allergic children without parental engagement and permission (e.g. birthday parties, food treats).
- If snacks are purchased from the school, parents should check the appropriateness of foods and are encouraged to contact the school.

Curriculum Activities

- Use of food in crafts, cooking classes, science experiments and special events (e.g. fetes, assemblies, cultural events) needs to be considered and may need to be restricted/risk assessed depending on the allergies of particular children and their age.
- In arts/craft, an appropriate alternative ingredient can be substituted (e.g. wheat-free flour for play dough or cooking). Consider substituting non-food containers for egg cartons.

Educational Visits

The lead member of staff for any educational visit will ensure that food allergy considerations are made in any activity that may involve food.

When a child with a food allergy participates in a residential visit, their dietary needs will be planned for in advance, in conjunction with the activity centre.

Charity Events

If the school hosts any school events such as 'coffee mornings' or 'bake days' for charity it is important that no food poses a risk to the end user.

Where products are not made on site, but sold by the school, appropriate allergen information must be available.

All products should be plated separately and stored as such (wrapped where possible) to prevent cross contact to other items for sale.

Promotion

The policy will be promoted by:

- A copy of this policy being made available to all parents and carers.
- Staff being informed and provided with training opportunities.
- Pupils being informed via teachers and support staff.
- Publication of this policy on the school website.