

Lowton West Primary School



Allergy Policy

Policy written by N. Gould

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Ratified by Governing Body:

Dr G Merrett (Chair of Governors)

Lowton West Primary School

Allergy Policy

Aiming High Together

School Vision

To inspire, achieve and succeed, we will aim high and build dreams and futures together.

Mission Statement

Providing the highest quality education, care and support for the whole school community.

Our mission statement is based on RESPECT:

R = Recognising the needs of the individual child

E = Ensuring a unique and engaging curriculum

S = Supporting each other to learn and achieve

P = Passionate about providing the highest quality education

E = Encouraging creativity, self – expression and imagination

C = Creating confident, resilient, life – long learners

T = The voice of everybody is heard

All the above statements help us to understand how we can all make a positive contribution to the school and the wider community.

We will do this through our core values:

- Respect
- Resilience
- Kindness
- Confidence

We also, at Lowton West Primary School, strive to develop and uphold British Values. The five British values that the Government has identified for schools to focus on are:

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
- Developing personal and social responsibility
- Respect for British Institutions

There are more details on how our school demonstrates and develops these British Values in our British Values Policy and on our website.

Lowton West is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for all pupils, staff, visitors, and volunteers with allergies and allergic conditions.

We recognise that allergic reactions can range from mild symptoms to life-threatening anaphylaxis and that prompt recognition and treatment are essential. We will take all reasonable steps to minimise risk whilst promoting full participation in school life.

This policy complies with the Department for Education's statutory guidance on **Allergy Safety in Schools (2026)** and should be read alongside the school's policies on:

- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions
- Safeguarding, Child Protection and Early Help
- Health and Safety
- Educational Visits
- Equality and Inclusion

Aims

The school will:

- Identify pupils with allergies promptly.
- Develop and maintain Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs).
- Ensure staff receive appropriate allergy awareness and emergency response training.
- Maintain and regularly check spare emergency AAIs.
- Reduce the risk of allergen exposure.
- Ensure rapid and effective response to allergic reactions.
- Promote inclusion and avoid unnecessary exclusion of pupils with allergies.
- Record, investigate, and learn from incidents and near misses.

Roles and Responsibilities

Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- Ensure implementation of this policy.
- Appoint an Allergy Lead.
- Ensure appropriate staff training is completed.
- Ensure sufficient staffing and emergency arrangements.

Allergy Lead

The Allergy Lead will:

- Maintain the allergy register.
- Coordinate IHPs.
- Monitor staff training.
- Ensure emergency medication is available and in date.
- Review incidents and near misses.

School's allergy lead is: Mrs Higgins, Pastoral and Safeguarding Manager

Staff

All staff must:

- Be familiar with allergy procedures.
- Recognise symptoms of allergic reactions.
- Know how to summon help.
- Follow pupil IHPs.
- Administer emergency medication when required.

Pupils

Where age and understanding allow, pupils will:

- Learn how to manage their allergies safely.

- Inform an adult if they feel unwell.
- Follow agreed allergy management strategies.

Identification of Pupils with Allergies

The school recognises the importance of identifying pupils with allergies as early as possible to ensure that appropriate support, risk reduction measures, and emergency procedures can be put in place. Information about a pupil's allergy may be obtained through admission forms, medical information provided by parents/carers, discussions with healthcare professionals, or notification of a new diagnosis during the pupil's time at school.

The school will maintain an up-to-date register of pupils with allergies and ensure that relevant information is shared with staff on a need-to-know basis to enable them to provide safe and effective support whilst maintaining pupil confidentiality.

Parents/Carers

Parents/carers must inform the school of any diagnosed allergy or allergic condition and provide accurate and up-to-date information regarding allergens, symptoms, prescribed medication, and emergency treatment requirements. They should also notify the school promptly of any changes to their child's medical needs and ensure that emergency contact details remain current.

Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

An IHP will be developed for pupils whose allergy presents a significant risk or where prescribed medication is required. Where appropriate, the school will work in partnership with parents/carers and healthcare professionals to develop an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) that outlines the pupil's allergy management needs and emergency procedures.

The IHP will include:

- Allergens and triggers.
- Symptoms specific to the pupil.
- Medication requirements.
- Emergency procedures.
- Contact details.
- Arrangements for educational visits and extracurricular activities.

IHPs will be reviewed:

- Annually.
- Following any allergic reaction.
- Whenever medical advice changes.

Staff Training

The school is committed to ensuring that all staff have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to support pupils with allergies, reduce the risk of allergic reactions, and respond promptly and effectively in an emergency. Allergy awareness and emergency response training will therefore be provided to all staff and refreshed regularly in accordance with statutory guidance. All staff will receive allergy awareness training appropriate to their role.

Training will cover:

- Common allergens.
- Recognition of allergic reactions.
- Symptoms of anaphylaxis.
- Use of adrenaline auto-injectors.
- Emergency procedures.
- Risk reduction measures.

Training records will be maintained and refreshed regularly.
The school will ensure:

- New staff receive induction training.
- Temporary staff are informed of relevant pupil needs.
- Training is reviewed annually.

Emergency Medication

The school recognises that immediate access to appropriate emergency medication can be lifesaving in the event of a severe allergic reaction.

Staff will:

- Encourage pupils to have prescribed medication available at all times.
- Store emergency medication safely but accessibly.
- Maintain spare emergency AAls in accordance with national guidance.
- Carry emergency medication on off-site activities.
- Carry out medication checks at least termly.

Reducing Risk

School is committed to reducing the risk of allergy incidents by implementing appropriate preventative measures, promoting awareness among staff and pupils, and maintaining safe practices throughout the school environment, whilst recognising that completely allergy-free environments cannot be guaranteed and that it is not possible to eliminate all allergen risks completely.

Classrooms

The school will take reasonable steps to minimise the risk of allergen exposure within classroom environments while ensuring that pupils with allergies can participate fully and safely in all aspects of school life. This may include:

- Awareness of pupils' allergies.
- Careful planning of food-based activities.
- Handwashing before and after eating.
- Cleaning of tables and shared equipment.

Dining Areas

The school will maintain clear communication with catering providers, including to ensure that accurate information about ingredients and allergens is available and that the dietary needs of pupils with allergies are understood and appropriately managed.

Pupils, parents, and staff will have access to relevant allergen information to support safe food choices and reduce the risk of accidental exposure to allergens.

Where a pupil's allergy presents a higher level of risk, the school will undertake an individual risk assessment in partnership with parents, healthcare professionals, and catering staff to identify and implement appropriate control measures that support the pupil's safety and inclusion.

Educational Visits

When planning educational visits, the school will undertake a suitable risk assessment that considers the individual needs of pupils with allergies and any potential allergen risks associated with the venue, activities, transport, and catering arrangements.

Staff leading the visit will ensure that each pupil's prescribed emergency medication, including adrenaline auto-injectors where required, is taken on the visit and remains readily accessible at all times.

All staff accompanying the visit will be familiar with the relevant Individual Healthcare Plans and trained in the school's emergency procedures for managing allergic reactions and anaphylaxis, including how to recognise symptoms and administer emergency medication if required.

Special Events

The school will take appropriate steps to minimise allergy risks during parties, fundraising events, and other celebrations by planning activities in advance and considering the needs of pupils with allergies. Where food is provided or brought into school, clear communication will be maintained with parents/carers to ensure that allergen risks are identified and managed appropriately, enabling all pupils to participate safely and inclusively.

Recognition of Allergic Reactions

Symptoms may include:

Mild to Moderate Symptoms

- Itching
- Rash
- Hives
- Swelling of lips, face, or eyes
- Abdominal pain
- Nausea or vomiting

Symptoms of Anaphylaxis

- Difficulty breathing
- Wheezing
- Persistent cough
- Hoarse voice
- Swollen tongue
- Difficulty swallowing
- Pale or floppy appearance
- Dizziness or collapse
- Loss of consciousness

Any suspected anaphylaxis must be treated as a medical emergency.

Emergency Procedure

In the event of suspected anaphylaxis:

1. Administer an adrenaline auto-injector immediately.
2. Call 999 and request an ambulance stating "ANAPHYLAXIS."
3. Inform parents/carers.
4. Keep the pupil lying down unless breathing difficulties require a different position.
5. Administer a second AAI if symptoms persist and medical advice indicates this is necessary.
6. Ensure the pupil is assessed by medical professionals even if symptoms improve.

All incidents will be documented.

Recording Incidents and Near Misses

The school will maintain records of:

- Allergic reactions.
- Use of emergency medication.
- Near misses.
- Lessons learned.

The Allergy Lead will review incidents to identify preventative actions.

Recording and learning from incidents is a requirement of the 2026 statutory guidance.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or reviewed sooner following a serious allergic incident or changes to legislation or guidance. The policy will be published on the school website in accordance with current statutory guidance.