



Our aim is as simple as **ABC**

Achieving, Belonging, Caring

'Be courageous, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go' Joshua 1:9

School Allergy Safety Policy

This school is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment for all pupils, staff, and visitors with allergies. We recognise that allergies can be life-threatening and that effective allergy management requires a whole-school approach. The school will take reasonable steps to reduce risks, promote awareness, and ensure that appropriate procedures are in place to respond to allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis.

This policy applies to all members of the school community and should be read alongside the school's First Aid, Medical Needs, Educational Visits, Safeguarding, and Health and Safety policies.

1. Awareness Training

The school will ensure that staff receive appropriate training to enable them to support pupils with allergies safely and effectively.

Staff Training

- All staff will receive allergy awareness training as part of their induction and regular refresher training.
- Training will include:
 - Understanding food and non-food allergies.
 - Recognising the signs and symptoms of allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
 - Emergency procedures and escalation processes.
 - The use of adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs).
 - Strategies to reduce exposure to allergens.
- Relevant staff who have direct responsibility for pupils with allergies will receive additional training where appropriate.

Pupil Awareness

- Pupils will receive age-appropriate education about allergies, inclusion, and allergy safety.
- Pupils will be encouraged:
 - Not to share food, drinks, or eating utensils.
 - To respect the needs of individuals with allergies.
 - To seek adult help immediately if they suspect someone is having an allergic reaction.

2. Wellbeing

The school recognises that allergies may affect a pupil's physical and emotional wellbeing.

The school will:

- Promote an inclusive environment that enables pupils with allergies to participate fully in school life.
- Support pupils who may experience anxiety associated with their allergies.
- Take concerns raised by pupils and families seriously.
- Ensure that bullying, teasing, or exclusion related to allergies is addressed promptly in line with the Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy.
- Encourage the development of age-appropriate self-management skills where suitable.

3. Food Allergy

Food allergies present a significant risk within the school environment.

Risk Reduction Measures

The school will:

- Maintain an up-to-date register of pupils with food allergies.
- Inform relevant staff, including catering staff, of identified food allergens.
- Encourage good handwashing practices before and after eating.
- Discourage the sharing of food between pupils.
- Pupils with an allergy will be given a purple band to wear at lunchtime so that they are easily identifiable. An "A" will also appear alongside their name on the lunch register.
- Consider allergy risks when planning events, celebrations, and curriculum activities involving food.

School Events

- Staff organising events involving food must consider allergy risks during planning.
- Parents and carers may be asked to provide ingredient information for food brought into school.
- The school cannot guarantee a completely allergen-free environment but will take reasonable steps to minimise risk.

4. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

An Individual Healthcare Plan will be developed for pupils identified as being at risk of severe allergic reactions or where regular medical support is required.

The Individual Healthcare Plan will include:

- Details of known allergens.
- Signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction.
- Emergency procedures.
- Medication requirements.
- Location of prescribed medication.
- Contact details for parents/carers and healthcare professionals where appropriate.
- Arrangements for educational visits and extracurricular activities.

Healthcare Plans will be:

- Reviewed at least annually.
- Updated following any significant change in medical circumstances.
- Shared with relevant members of staff.

5. Prescribed Adrenaline

The school requires parents/carers of pupils prescribed adrenaline auto-injectors to:

- Provide the school with prescribed, in-date medication.
- Replace medication before its expiry date.
- Inform the school of any changes in medical advice or treatment.
- Ensure an up-to-date Individual Healthcare Plan is provided.

The school will:

- Store prescribed adrenaline devices in an accessible and secure location.
- Ensure that staff know where devices are kept.
- Allow pupils to carry their own adrenaline auto-injector where appropriate and agreed within their Individual Healthcare Plan.
- Administer prescribed adrenaline in accordance with training and emergency procedures.

6. Spare Adrenaline Devices

The school may maintain spare adrenaline auto-injectors in accordance with current legislation and guidance.

Where spare devices are held:

- Devices will be stored securely in the office and will remain readily accessible in an emergency.
- Expiry dates will be monitored regularly.
- Use of a spare device will be recorded and reported to parents/carers.

7. Visits and Trips

All educational visits, residential trips, sporting activities, and off-site events will include consideration of allergy management.

Risk assessments will:

- Identify potential allergen risks.
- Consider access to emergency medication.
- Ensure appropriate staff are aware of pupils' allergy needs.
- Include emergency response arrangements.
- Confirm that prescribed adrenaline devices accompany the pupil where required.

The school will ensure that pupils with allergies are not excluded from educational opportunities without a justifiable health and safety reason.

8. Near Misses

The school recognises the value of reporting and reviewing near misses involving allergens.

A near miss may include:

- Accidental exposure to an allergen that does not result in a reaction.
- Incorrect food being offered to a pupil with an allergy.
- Failure to follow agreed allergy procedures that could have resulted in harm.

All near misses will:

- Be reported to the designated lead.
- Be recorded appropriately using the Warwickshire County Council Accident/Incident Recording System.
- Be reviewed to identify lessons learned and prevent recurrence.
- Inform future risk assessments, staff training, and policy review.

9. Information Sharing

Appropriate information sharing is essential to effective allergy management.

The school will:

- Keep accurate, up-to-date records of pupils with allergies.
- Share relevant information with staff who have responsibility for pupil welfare.
- Ensure temporary staff, volunteers, and supply teachers are informed of pupils with severe allergies where necessary.
- Share information in accordance with data protection legislation while ensuring pupil safety.

Parents/carers are responsible for informing the school promptly of:

- New diagnoses.
- Changes to allergic conditions.
- Changes to medication.
- Emergency contact details.

10. Awareness of the Allergy Safety Policy

The school is committed to ensuring that all members of the school community are aware of this policy.

The policy will be:

- Available to all staff.
- Published on the school's website.
- Shared with parents/carers upon request.
- Referenced during staff induction.
- Reviewed annually or sooner if required following a serious incident, change in guidance, or legislative update.

The Headteacher and Governing Body have overall responsibility for ensuring that this policy is implemented effectively and reviewed regularly.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher and Governing Body, or sooner if there is a significant change in legislation, guidance, or school circumstances.