# ALLERGENS SAFETY POLICY

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| Approved by | Jon Wood |
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## Policy Statement

Churchstanton Primary School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all pupils, staff, volunteers and visitors with allergies. We recognise that allergies can have a significant impact on health, wellbeing and participation in school life and that severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) can be life-threatening.

This policy outlines the school's procedures for managing allergies, minimising risk, responding to emergencies and promoting inclusion and wellbeing. It complies with the requirements of Section 34 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 and associated statutory guidance.

The designated Allergy Safety Lead is the **Headteacher**, who is responsible for overseeing the implementation, monitoring and annual review of this policy.

## Aims

Churchstanton Primary School aims to:

- Protect pupils, staff and visitors with known allergies.
- Minimise the risk of exposure to allergens.
- Ensure staff can recognise and respond appropriately to allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
- Promote the wellbeing and inclusion of pupils with allergies.
- Provide safe access to education, school activities, educational visits and enrichment opportunities.
- Maintain clear communication with parents, carers and healthcare professionals.

**Roles and Responsibilities Allergy Safety Lead:**

- Oversee implementation of this policy.
- Maintain oversight of allergy records and Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs).
- Ensure staff receive annual allergy awareness training.
- Monitor incidents and near misses.
- Review the policy annually.
- Ensure emergency medication is appropriately maintained.

**Headteacher and Senior Leaders:**

- Support implementation of the policy.
- Ensure appropriate resources are available.
- Monitor compliance with the policy.

**Staff:**

- Attend annual allergy awareness training.
- Follow Individual Healthcare Plans and Allergy Action Plans.
- Minimise exposure to known allergens where reasonably practicable.
- Know how to respond in an emergency.
- Report allergy incidents and near misses.

## Parents and Carers:

- Informing the school of any allergy diagnosis.
- Providing up-to-date medical information.
- Providing prescribed medication and ensuring it remains in date.
- Providing updated Allergy Action Plans where available.

## Allergy Awareness Training

All staff present during times when pupils are scheduled to be on site should receive allergy awareness training. This includes permanent staff, temporary staff, supply teachers, peripatetic staff, agency workers and regular volunteers. It includes catering staff and others who may oversee children and young people at breakfast or after school clubs. It is not intended to include contractors carrying out work with no pupil-facing role such as builders, electricians or other ad hoc maintenance personnel.

Training will ensure staff:

Have an awareness of allergy, the risks it poses, how allergic reactions can occur and how to manage it;

- Understand that allergy includes multiple conditions (food allergy, asthma, eczema, hay fever, others), which can co-exist;
- Understand the difference between food allergy, coeliac disease and food intolerance;
- Know where to find information on allergy triggers;
- Can identify the range of symptoms of allergic reactions;
- Understand and can recognise anaphylaxis;
- Know how to respond in an emergency, including: o calling emergency services and informing parents;
- How to locate and administer emergency medication (adrenaline for anaphylaxis, asthma reliever inhaler for an asthma attack).
- Training on how to use the medication/device in an emergency (whether prescribed to a given person or a school's "spare" adrenaline devices);

- Understand the impact allergy can have on a child or young person's wellbeing;
- Understand the school, college or setting's allergy safety policy;
- Know how to check whether an individual is on the record of those with known allergy and how to use an Allergy or Asthma Action Plan;
- Understand their responsibilities in reducing the risk of individuals with known allergy coming into contact with their known allergens;
- Understand how to report an allergic reaction or case of anaphylaxis (whether an incident or a "near miss").

New staff will receive allergy awareness information as part of their induction.

## Promoting Wellbeing

Churchstanton Primary School recognises that allergies can affect emotional wellbeing and may lead to anxiety for pupils and families.

The school will:

- Promote an inclusive environment.
- Encourage pupils to discuss concerns with trusted adults.
- Work closely with parents and carers.
- Take reasonable steps to support pupils who experience anxiety linked to allergies.

Churchstanton Primary School adopts a zero-tolerance approach towards bullying related to allergies and medical conditions.

Any incidents will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy and Antibullying Policy.

## Minimising Risk

The school will take reasonable measures to minimise exposure to known allergens.

These include:

- Maintaining accurate allergy records.
- Sharing essential information with relevant staff.
- Ensuring allergy risks are considered when planning curriculum activities.
- Promoting good hygiene practices, including handwashing.
- Discouraging sharing of food and drinks. **School Meals and Catering**

The school will:

- Work with catering providers to identify allergens in food served.
- Make allergen information available where required.
- Risk assess individual pupils' needs.

## Food Brought Into School

The school will:

- Communicate allergy-related requirements to families where necessary.
- Risk assess school events involving food.

## Curriculum Activities

Staff planning activities must consider allergens in:

- Cooking activities
- Science lessons
- Art and craft materials
- Animal-related activities

- Sensory and messy play activities
- Reasonable adjustments will be made where necessary.

## Identification of Individuals with Allergies

The school will maintain an up-to-date register of pupils with allergies.

Records will include:

- Details of known allergens.
- Severity of allergy.
- Emergency medication requirements.
- Storage location of medication.
- Associated Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Allergy Action Plans and Asthma Action Plans where applicable.

Information will be gathered through:

- Admission documentation.
- Annual medical updates.
- Parent and carer communication.
- Information provided by healthcare professionals.

## Individual Healthcare Plans

The Headteacher with the support of the Receptionist will take the lead in developing an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP), liaising with parent/carer and input from health professional for pupils where:

- Their allergy has a significant impact on school life.
- They are at risk of harm due to their allergy.
- Additional arrangements are required.

The plan may include:

- Allergy information.
- Known allergens.
- Warning signs and symptoms.
- Preventative measures.
- Medication requirements.
- Emergency procedures.
- Educational visit arrangements.

Plans will be reviewed:

Plans will be reviewed annually or sooner if triggered by any of the following:

- A significant change in medical needs reported by a parent/carer or health professional.

- An incident (whether inside or outside school).

- Updated medical advice received by the school.

## Prescribed Adrenaline Auto-Injectors

Pupils prescribed adrenaline auto-injectors must have rapid access to their medication at all times.
*Adrenaline Auto-Injectors should be administered within 5 minutes of anaphylaxis.*

Access arrangements will ensure medication is available:

- In classrooms.
- During playtimes and lunchtimes. • During PE and sporting activities.
- On educational visits.
- During off-site activities.

The school will keep records of:

- Pupils prescribed adrenaline auto-injectors.
- Device expiry dates.
- Associated Action Plans.

Parents remain responsible for supplying replacement devices before expiry.

## Spare Emergency Medication

Churchstanton Primary School maintains:

- Spare adrenaline auto-injectors in the school office.

These are available in accordance with current legislation and guidance and may be used in an emergency where appropriate.

## Storage

Emergency medication will:

- Be stored securely but remain readily accessible in the school office.
- Be clearly labelled.
- Be available within five minutes of any location where it may be required.
- Be checked regularly to ensure it remains in date.

## Monitoring

The Allergy Safety Lead will ensure:

- Expiry dates are monitored.
- Used medication is replaced promptly.
- Appropriate records are maintained.
- Safe disposal arrangements are followed.

## Educational Visits and Off-Site Activities

Children with allergies will be fully included in educational visits wherever possible.

Before visits:

- Risk assessments will be completed.
- Medical needs will be reviewed.
- Staff will have access to relevant healthcare plans.
- Emergency medication arrangements will be confirmed.

Pupils prescribed adrenaline auto-injectors must have immediate access to them during visits and trips.

At least one member of staff accompanying the trip will be trained in recognising and responding to anaphylaxis.

## Serious Incidents and Near Misses

All allergy-related incidents and near misses will be:

- Recorded.
- Reported to the Allergy Safety Lead.
- Reviewed to identify lessons learned.
- Used to improve procedures where necessary.

Parents and carers will be informed of significant incidents involving their child.

Emergency services will be contacted immediately in cases of suspected anaphylaxis.

## Information Sharing and Data Protection

Medical information relating to allergies is treated as sensitive personal data and managed in accordance with UK GDPR and Data Protection legislation.

Relevant information will be shared only with staff who need it to safeguard pupils effectively.

The school's allergy records and healthcare plans will be stored securely.

## Raising Awareness

This policy will be:

- Published on the Churchstanton Primary School website.
- Available in hard copy upon request.
- Included within staff induction procedures.
- Referenced during annual allergy awareness training.

The school will promote age-appropriate awareness of allergies to help create a supportive and safe school community.

## Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Allergy Safety Lead (Headteacher) , and sooner if:

- There is a serious allergy incident.
- A near miss identifies concerns.
- National guidance changes.
- School procedures require amendment.

Review findings will be used to strengthen allergy safety arrangements across the school.