

# Pupil allergy policy & procedures

Argyle Primary School



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### 1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out our school’s approach to allergy management, including reducing the risk of exposure and the procedures in place in case of allergic reaction
- Make clear how our school supports pupils with allergies to ensure their wellbeing and inclusion
- Promote and maintain allergy awareness among the school community

### 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education (DfE)’s guidance on [allergies in schools](#) and [supporting pupils with medical conditions at school](#), the Department of Health and Social Care’s guidance on [using emergency adrenaline auto-injectors in schools](#), and the following legislation:

- [The Food Information Regulations 2014](#)
- [The Food Information \(Amendment\) \(England\) Regulations 2019](#)

### 3. Roles and responsibilities

We take a whole-school approach to allergy awareness.

#### 3.1 Allergy lead

The nominated allergy lead is **Bernie Mukasa**.

They're responsible for:

- Promoting and maintaining allergy awareness across our school community
- Ensuring:
  - All allergy information is up to date and readily available to relevant members of staff
  - All pupils with allergies have an allergy action plan completed by a medical professional
  - All staff receive an appropriate level of allergy training
  - All staff are aware of the school's policy and procedures regarding allergies
  - Relevant staff are aware of what activities need an allergy risk assessment
- Regularly reviewing and updating the allergy policy

#### 3.2 School nurse/medical officer

The school nurse/medical officer is responsible for:

- Co-ordinating the paperwork and information from families
- Co-ordinating medication with families
- Checking spare AAls are in date
- Recording and collating allergy and special dietary information for all relevant pupils
- Keeping stock of the school's adrenaline auto-injectors (AAls)
- Any other appropriate tasks delegated by the allergy lead
- Liaising with catering team to create special diet menus

#### 3.3 Teaching and support staff

All teaching and support staff are responsible for:

- Promoting and maintaining allergy awareness among pupils

- Maintaining awareness of our allergy policy and procedures
- Being able to recognise the signs of severe allergic reactions and anaphylaxis
- Attending appropriate allergy training as required
- Being aware of specific pupils with allergies in their care
- Carefully considering the use of food or other potential allergens in lesson and activity planning
- Ensuring the wellbeing and inclusion of pupils with allergies

### **3.4 Parents/carers**

Parents/carers are responsible for:

- Being aware of our school's allergy policy
- Providing the school with up-to-date details of their child's medical needs, dietary requirements, and any history of allergies, reactions and anaphylaxis
- If required, providing their child with 2 in-date adrenaline auto-injectors and any other medication, including inhalers, antihistamine etc., and making sure these are replaced in a timely manner
- Carefully considering the food they provide to their child as packed lunches and snacks, and trying to limit the number of allergens included
- Following the school's guidance on food brought in to be shared
- Updating the school on any changes to their child's condition

### **3.5 Pupils with allergies**

These pupils are responsible for:

- Being aware of their allergens and the risks they pose
- Understanding how and when to use their adrenaline auto-injector
- Be aware of where their adrenaline auto-injector is located

### **3.6 Pupils without allergies**

These pupils are responsible for:

- Being aware of allergens and the risk they pose to their peers

## **4. Assessing risk**

The school will conduct a risk assessment for any pupil at risk of anaphylaxis taking part in:

- Lessons such as food technology
- Science experiments involving foods
- Crafts using food packaging
- Off-site events and school trips
- Any other activities involving animals or food, such as animal handling experiences or baking

A risk assessment for any pupil at risk of an allergic reaction will also be carried out where a visitor requires a guide dog.

## 5. Managing risk

### 5.1 Hygiene procedures

- Pupils are reminded to wash their hands before and after eating
- Pupils have their own individual water bottles

### 5.2 Catering

The school is committed to providing safe food options to meet the dietary needs of pupils with allergies.

- Catering staff receive appropriate training and are able to identify pupils with allergies
- School menus are available for parents/carers to view with ingredients clearly labelled
- Where changes are made to school menus, we will make sure these continue to meet any special dietary needs of pupils
- Food allergen information relating to the 'top 14' allergens is displayed on the packaging of all food products, allowing pupils and staff to make safer choices. Allergen information labelling will follow all [legal requirements](#) that apply to naming the food and listing ingredients, as outlined by the Food Standards Agency (FSA)
- Catering staff follow hygiene and allergy procedures when preparing food to avoid cross-contamination

### 5.3 Food restrictions

We acknowledge that it is impractical to enforce an allergen-free school. However, we would like to encourage pupils and staff to avoid certain high-risk foods to reduce the chances of someone experiencing a reaction. These foods include:

- Packaged nuts
- Cereal, granola or chocolate bars containing nuts
- Peanut butter or chocolate spreads containing nuts

- Peanut-based sauces, such as satay
- Sesame seeds and foods containing sesame seeds

If a pupil brings these foods into school, they may be asked to eat them away from others to minimise the risk, or the food may be confiscated.

The school catering team does not provide food containing nuts.

#### **5.4 Insect bites/stings**

When outdoors:

- Shoes should always be worn
- Food and drink should be covered

#### **5.5 Animals**

- All pupils will always wash hands after interacting with animals to avoid putting pupils with allergies at risk through later contact
- Pupils with animal allergies will not interact with animals

#### **5.6 Support for mental health**

Pupils with allergies will have additional support through:

- Well-being Champion
- First aid staff
- Regular check-ins with their class teacher or teaching assistant

#### **5.7 Events and school trips**

- For events, including ones that take place outside of the school, and school trips, no pupils with allergies will be excluded from taking part
- The school will plan accordingly for all events and school trips, and arrange for the staff members involved to be aware of pupils' allergies and to have received adequate training
- Appropriate measures will be taken in line with the schools AAI protocols for off-site events and school trips (see section 7.5).

#### **5.8 Breakfast Club, After-school clubs and curriculum activities**

- Pupils with allergies will not be excluded from attending breakfast club or after-school clubs on the grounds of their medical needs.

- The school will ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place to support pupils with allergies attending breakfast club and after-school clubs.
- All staff, volunteers, and external providers involved in the provision of breakfast club or after-school clubs will be informed of pupils' allergies, understand the school's allergy procedures, and receive appropriate training, including the administration of Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs), where required.
- Food provided during breakfast club or after-school clubs will be managed in accordance with pupils' individual healthcare plans and the school's allergy management procedures.
- AAIs and other prescribed medication will be readily accessible during breakfast club and after-school club provision in line with the school's medical needs and emergency procedures.

## 6. Procedures for handling an allergic reaction

### 6.1 Register of pupils with AAIs

- The school maintains a register of pupils who have been prescribed AAIs or where a doctor has provided a written plan recommending AAIs to be used in the event of anaphylaxis. The register includes:
  - Known allergens and risk factors for anaphylaxis
  - Whether a pupil has been prescribed AAI(s) (and if so, what type and dose)
  - Where a pupil has been prescribed an AAI, whether parental consent has been given for use of the spare AAI, which may be different to the personal AAI prescribed for the pupil
  - A photograph of each pupil to allow a visual check to be made
  - The photo list of children prescribed an AAI is kept in every classroom as well as other relevant areas in the school (e.g. STEAM Lab, FLC ) and can be checked quickly by any member of staff as part of initiating an emergency response

### 6.2 Allergic reaction procedures

- As part of the whole-school awareness approach to allergies, all staff are trained in the school's allergic reaction procedure, and to recognise the signs of anaphylaxis and respond appropriately
- Staff are trained in the administration of AAIs to minimise delays in pupil's receiving adrenaline in an emergency
- If a pupil has an allergic reaction, the staff member will initiate the school's emergency response plan, following the pupil's allergy action plan
  - If an AAI needs to be administered, a member of staff will use the pupil's own AAI, or if it is not available, a school one
- If the pupil has no allergy action plan, staff will follow the school's procedures on responding to allergy and, if needed, the school's normal emergency procedures

- If someone is experiencing any of the following symptoms, it should be treated as a medical emergency:
  - **AIRWAY:** swelling in the throat, tongue or upper airways, hoarse voice, difficulty swallowing
  - **BREATHING:** sudden onset wheezing, breathing difficulty, noisy breathing, persistent cough
  - **CIRCULATION:** dizziness, feeling faint, sudden sleepiness, confusion, pale clammy skin, loss of consciousness or collapse
  - Give adrenaline – make a note of the time. **Call 999** tell the operator it is “anaphylaxis”
  - If symptoms do not improve after 5 minutes give a second dose
  - Stay with them until emergency services arrive
- A school AAI device will be used instead of the pupil’s own AAI device if:
  - Medical authorisation and written parental consent have been provided, or
  - The pupil’s own prescribed AAI(s) are not immediately available (for example, because they are broken, out-of-date, have misfired or been wrongly administered)
- If a pupil needs to be taken to hospital, staff will stay with the pupil until the parent/carer arrives, or accompany the pupil to hospital by ambulance
- If the allergic reaction is mild (e.g. skin rash, itching or sneezing), the pupil will be monitored and the parents/carers informed

## 7. Adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs)

### 7.1 Purchasing of spare AAIs

The allergy lead is responsible for buying AAIs and ensuring they are stored according to the guidance.

- AAIs will be sourced at a local pharmacy
- Two junior AAIs and two infant AAIs will be bought
- The EPI brand is used
- The dosage required (based on Resuscitation Council UK’s age-based criteria, see page 11 of [the guidance](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a829e3940f0b6230269bcf4/Adrenaline_auto_injectors_in_schools.pdf))  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a829e3940f0b6230269bcf4/Adrenaline\\_auto\\_injectors\\_in\\_schools.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a829e3940f0b6230269bcf4/Adrenaline_auto_injectors_in_schools.pdf)

### 7.2 Storage (of both spare and prescribed AAIs)

The allergy lead will make sure all AAIs are:

- Stored at room temperature (in line with manufacturer’s guidelines), protected from direct sunlight and extremes of temperature

- Kept in a safe and suitably central location to which all staff have access at all times, but is out of the reach and sight of children
- **Not** locked away, but accessible and available for use at all times
- **Not** located more than 5 minutes away from where they may be needed Spare AAI's will be kept separate from any pupil's own prescribed AAI, and clearly labelled to avoid confusion.

### **7.3 Maintenance (of spare AAI's)**

Kareen Baker and First Aid staff are responsible for checking monthly that:

- The AAI's are present and in date
- Replacement AAI's are obtained when the expiry date is near

### **7.4 Disposal**

AAI's can only be used once. Once a AAI has been used, it will be disposed of in line with the manufacturer's instructions. (In a sharps bin for collection by PHS)

### **7.5 Use of AAI's off school premises**

- Pupils at risk of anaphylaxis who are able to administer their own AAI's should carry their own AAI with them on school trips and off-site events
- First aid staff collect the child's AAI from the class tray in the medical room.
- One Junior and / or one infant AAI is taken on school trips according to the needs of the pupils

### **7.6 Emergency anaphylaxis kit**

The school holds an emergency anaphylaxis kit. This includes:

- Spare AAI's
- Instructions for the use of AAI's
- Instructions on storage
- Manufacturer's information
- A checklist of injectors, identified by batch number and expiry date with monthly checks recorded
- A note of arrangements for replacing injectors
- A list of pupils to whom the AAI can be administered
- A record of when AAI's have been administered

## **8. Training**

The school is committed to training all staff in allergy response. This includes:

- How to reduce and prevent the risk of allergic reactions
- How to spot the signs of allergic reactions (including anaphylaxis)

- The importance of acting quickly in the case of anaphylaxis
- Where AAls are kept on the school site, and how to access them
- How to administer AAls
- The wellbeing and inclusion implications of allergies

Training will be carried out annually by the school nursing team.

## 9. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Health and safety policy
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
- School food policy