



SINCE 604 AD

KING'S SCHOOL

ROCHESTER

Allergy Safety Policy

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1. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This policy outlines King's School Rochester's approach to allergy management, in line with the Department for Education's Allergy Safety in Schools guidance published in 2026 ([Supporting children and young people with medical conditions and allergies](#)). It also reflects the procedural requirements of Benedict's Law coming into force in September 2026.

Benedict's Law introduces a consistent national framework for allergy safety in schools, requiring whole-school allergy policies, mandatory staff training, access to adrenaline devices, and the creation of Individual Healthcare Plans for pupils with allergies.

This policy outlines how the whole-school community works to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction occurring, and the procedures in place to respond effectively if one does. It also sets out how we support our pupils with allergies to ensure their wellbeing and inclusion, as well as demonstrating our commitment to being an allergy-aware school.

This policy applies to all staff, pupils, parents and visitors to the school and should be read alongside other related policies:

- First Aid Policy
- Accessibility Plan 2025-27
- Whole School Health and Safety Policy
- Junior School including EYFS and boarders, Wrap-Around Care Policy
- Food and Nutrition Policy

2. WHAT IS AN ALLERGY?

Allergy occurs when a person reacts to a substance that is usually considered harmless. It is an immune response and instead of ignoring the substance, the body produces histamine which triggers an allergic reaction.

Whilst most allergic reactions are mild, causing minor symptoms, some can be very serious and cause anaphylaxis, which is a life-threatening medical emergency.

People can be allergic to anything, but serious allergic reactions are most commonly caused by food, insect venom (such as a wasp or bee sting), latex and medication.

An allergy is different to an intolerance. Whilst an intolerance may cause uncomfortable symptoms it does not involve the immune system.

3. DEFINITIONS

ANAPHYLAXIS: Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that can be life-threatening and must be treated as a medical emergency.

ALLERGEN: A normally harmless substance that, for some, triggers an allergic reaction. You can be allergic to anything. The most common allergens are food, medication, animal dander (skin cells shed by animals with fur or feathers) and pollen. Latex and wasp and bee stings are less common allergens.

Most severe allergic reactions to food are caused by just 9 foods. These are eggs, milk, peanuts, tree nuts (which includes nuts such as hazelnut, cashew nut, pistachio, almond, walnut, pecan, Brazil nut, macadamia etc), sesame, fish, shellfish, soya and wheat.

There are 14 allergens required by UK law to be highlighted on pre-packed food, referred to as the “main 14” in this template. These allergens are celery, cereals containing gluten, crustaceans, egg, fish, lupin, milk, molluscs, mustard, peanuts, tree nuts, soya, sulphites (or sulphur dioxide), and sesame.

ADRENALINE AUTO-INJECTOR: Single-use device which carries a pre-measured dose of adrenaline. Adrenaline auto-injectors are used to treat anaphylaxis by injecting adrenaline directly into the upper, outer thigh muscle. Adrenaline auto-injectors are commonly referred to as AAI, adrenaline pens or by the brand name EpiPen. There are two brands licensed for use in the UK: EpiPen and Jext Pen. For the purposes of this Policy we will refer to them as Adrenaline Devices or ADs to include other adrenaline devices such as EURNeffy (see below).

ALLERGY ACTION PLAN: This is a document filled out by a healthcare professional, detailing a person’s allergy and their treatment plan.

ASTHMA: Asthma is a common, long-term condition which affects the lungs. People with asthma have airways that are more sensitive and can become inflamed and narrow on exposure to certain triggers. This can lead to difficulty in breathing.

ASTHMA ACTION PLAN: This is a document filled out by a healthcare professional, detailing a person’s asthma, information about triggers, symptoms, medicines to be used if they have asthma symptoms, and when to seek emergency help when they have an asthma attack.

DESIGNATED ALLERGY LEAD: The member of staff responsible for overseeing allergy and asthma management across the school and acting as the main point of contact for pupils, parents and staff. This is referred to as the named senior leader in the statutory guidance.

ALLERGY & ANAPHYLAXIS RESPONSE PLAN: A document (**APPENDIX 1**) that outlines a school's procedure for managing an emergency and should be fit for purpose to manage a serious allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).

EURNEFFY: EURNeffy (also known as Neffy) is a nasal spray which delivers adrenaline. It is a needle-free alternative to an adrenaline auto-injector.

INDIVIDUAL HEALTHCARE PLAN: A detailed document outlining an individual pupil’s medical conditions, history, treatment, risks and action plan. This document should be created by schools in collaboration with parents/carers and, where appropriate, pupils. All pupils with an allergy that requires active management should have an Individual Healthcare Plan and it should be read in conjunction with their Allergy Action Plan.

RISK ASSESSMENT: A detailed document outlining an activity, the risks it poses and any actions taken or to be taken to mitigate those risks. Allergy should be included in all risk assessments for events on and off the school site.

SPARE ADRENALINE DEVICES: Schools are able to purchase spare adrenaline **devices**. These should be held as a back-up, in case pupils’ prescribed adrenaline **devices** are not available. They can also be used to treat a person who experiences anaphylaxis but has not been prescribed their own adrenaline.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

King's School Rochester takes a whole-school approach to allergy management.

4.1 Named Allergy Governor

The Named Allergy Governor is Nikki Cagan. They work in partnership with the Designated Allergy Lead to ensure allergy safety is overseen at governing body level. They are responsible for:

- Ensuring allergy-related risks are included on the school's risk register and actively managed by the governing body;
- Providing strategic oversight of the school's Allergy Safety Policy, ensuring it is reviewed at least annually and published on the school's website;
- Acting as the governing body's named point of contact for allergy-related matters;
- Satisfying themselves that the school's allergy management arrangements meet legal and statutory requirements and reflect best practice;
- Receiving regular updates from the Designated Allergy Lead and ensuring the governing body is appropriately sighted on allergy compliance; and
- Reviewing records of allergic reaction incidents and near-misses and ensuring the school acts on any learnings to reduce the risk of future incidents.

4.2 Designated Allergy Lead

The Named Allergy Lead is Nick Ball. They report into *the Principal and the named member of the governing body who is responsible for the Allergy Safety Policy*. They are responsible for:

- Leading the publication and implementation of a school-wide Allergy Safety Policy;
- Ensuring the safety, inclusion and wellbeing of pupils, staff and visitors with an allergy;
- Taking decisions on allergy management across the school;
- Championing and practising allergy and asthma awareness across the school;
- Being the overarching point of contact for staff, pupils and parents with concerns or questions about allergy management;
- Ensuring allergy information is recorded, up-to-date and communicated to all staff;
- Making sure all staff are appropriately trained, have good allergy awareness and realise their role in allergy management (including what activities need an allergy risk assessment);
- Ensuring staff, pupils and parents have a good awareness of the school's Allergy Safety Policy, and other related procedures;

- Reviewing the school's stock of spare adrenaline devices (checking the school has an appropriate number for the setting, that they hold the correct dose, that spare adrenaline devices are stored appropriately) and ensuring staff know where they are;
- Keeping a record of any allergic reactions or near-misses, reporting these to the governing body and appropriate authority (e.g. Under RIDDOR) where necessary, investigating the incidents and ensuring that the findings of investigations into incidents are used to update relevant policies and procedures.
- Regularly reviewing and updating the Allergy Safety Policy; and
- Ensuring there is an anaphylaxis drill at least once a year and that lessons learned are used to update the allergy safety policy and school procedures as appropriate.

The Designated Allergy Lead will monitor implementation of this policy, review procedures at regular intervals and report to the senior leadership team and Named Allergy Governor as appropriate.

4.3 School Nurse

The School Nurse is responsible for:

- Collecting and coordinating the paperwork (including Allergy Action Plans, Asthma Action Plans and Individual Healthcare Plans) and information from families to ensure that arrangements are in place before the pupil starts, or within 2 weeks for a mid-year transfer, liaising with the admissions team as needed;
- Working with HR to keep an updated list of staff with allergies (and creating an individual healthcare plan if necessary) and ensuring arrangements are in place to support them;
- Supporting the Designated Allergy Lead with disseminating this information to all school staff, including the catering team, occasional staff and those running clubs
- Ensuring the information from families is up-to-date and reviewed annually (at a minimum), coordinating medication with families and ensuring medication is in date;
- Keeping an adrenaline device register to include adrenaline devices prescribed to pupils and the school's stock and location of spare adrenaline devices, including brand, dose and expiry date.;
- Regularly checking spare adrenaline devices are where they should be, are easily accessible in case of emergency, and that they are in date;
- Replacing the spare adrenaline devices when necessary;
- Providing on-site adrenaline device training for staff and pupils and refresher training as required e.g. before school trips; and

4.4 Admissions Team

The admissions team is likely to be the first to learn of a pupil or visitor's allergy. They should work with the Designated Allergy Lead and school nursing team/medical lead to ensure that:

- There is a clear method to capture allergy information or special dietary information at the earliest opportunity;
- There is a clear structure in place to communicate this information to the relevant parties (i.e. school nursing team, catering team);
- Parents and applicants are informed of catering arrangements during admission events;
- Plans are made for emergency medication if the child is to be left without parental supervision; and
- There is liaison with the child's previous school, or future school to ensure a smooth transition between settings.

4.5 All staff

All school staff, including teaching staff, support staff, occasional staff (for example sports coaches, music teachers and those running breakfast and afterschool clubs are responsible for:

- Championing and practising allergy and asthma awareness across the school;
- Reading, understanding and putting into practice the Allergy Safety Policy and related procedures, and asking for support if needed;
- Being aware of pupils (and staff, when necessary) with allergies and what they are allergic to;
- Considering the risk to pupils with allergies posed by any activities and assessing whether the use of any allergen in activity is necessary and/or appropriate;
- Ensuring pupils always have access to their medication, including carrying it on their behalf if necessary;
- Being able to recognise and respond to an allergic reaction, including anaphylaxis, after appropriate training;
- Taking part in training and anaphylaxis drills as required (at least once a year). Whilst it is the school's responsibility to ensure staff have received annual training, if the member of staff is aware they have not received any allergy training in the last 12 months they should alert a manager;
- Considering the safety, inclusion and wellbeing of pupils with allergies at all times. Preventing and responding to allergy-related bullying, in line with the school's anti-bullying policy;
- Forwarding any communication or information that comes directly to them from parents regarding allergens to the School Nurse and;
- Ensuring that pupils have their medication and their Allergy Action Plan or Individual Health Care Plan with them when leaving the school site for a match or trip.

4.6 All parents

All parents and carers (whether their child has an allergy or not) are responsible for:

- Being aware of and understanding the school's Allergy Safety Policy and considering the safety, inclusion, and wellbeing of pupils with allergies;
- Providing the School with information about their child's medical needs, including dietary requirements and allergies, history of their allergy, any previous allergic reactions or anaphylaxis. They should also inform the school of any related conditions, for example asthma, hay fever, rhinitis or eczema;
- Considering and adhering to any food restrictions or guidance the school has in place when providing food, for example in packed lunches, as snacks or for fundraising events;
- Refraining from telling the school their child has an allergy or intolerance if this is a preference or dietary choice; and
- Encouraging their child to be allergy aware.

4.7 Parents of children with allergies

In addition to paragraph 4.6, the parents and carers of children with allergies should:

- Work with the school to fill out an Individual Healthcare Plan and provide an accompanying Allergy Action Plan;
- If applicable, provide the school or their child with two labelled adrenaline devices and any other medication, for example antihistamine (with a dispenser, ie. spoon or syringe), inhalers or creams;
- Ensure medication is in-date and replaced at the appropriate time;
- Ensure their child has access to their allergy medication, including two adrenaline devices, if prescribed, on the journey to and from school;
- Update the school with any changes to their child's condition and ensure the relevant paperwork is updated too;
- Provide the school with an up-to-date photograph of their child and sign the associated permission for it to be shared appropriately as part of their allergy management; and
- Support their child to understand their allergy diagnosis, advocate for themselves, and take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction occurring e.g. not eating the food to which they are allergic.

4.8 All pupils

All pupils at the school should:

- Be allergy aware;

- Understand the risks that allergens might pose to their peers and respect measures to support them;
- Learn how they can support the wellbeing of their peers and be alert to allergy-related bullying.

Older pupils should:

- learn how to recognise an allergic reaction and support their peers and staff in case of an emergency; and

4.9 Pupils with allergies

In addition to paragraph 4.8, pupils with allergies, as appropriate to their age and capability, are responsible for:

- Knowing what their allergies are and how to mitigate personal risk;
- Avoiding their allergen as best as they can;
- Understanding the importance of following the school specific processes of lunch and snack services and how that mitigates risk;
- Understanding that they should notify a member of staff if they are not feeling well, or suspect they might be having an allergic reaction;
- Carrying two adrenaline auto-injectors with them at all times;
- Understanding how and when to use their adrenaline auto-injector and only using them for their intended purpose;
- Talking to the Designated Allergy Lead or a member of staff if they are concerned by any school processes or systems related to their allergy;
- Raising concerns with a member of staff if they experience any inappropriate behaviour in relation to their allergies;
- [If leaving the school site with permission during the school day [or from a boarding school], knowing what to do if they have an allergic reaction off the school premises including how to treat themselves and how to raise the alarm to get help]; and
- Ensuring they have their medication with them on the journey to and from school.

5. INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

5.1 Register of pupils and staff with an allergy

The school has a register of pupils and record of staff who have a diagnosed allergy. This includes children and staff who have a history of anaphylaxis or have been prescribed adrenaline devices, as well as pupils and staff with an allergy where no adrenaline devices have been prescribed.

5.2 Individual Healthcare Plans

Each pupil with an allergy requiring active management by the school has an Individual Healthcare Plan. The information on this plan includes:

- Known allergens, risk factors for allergic reactions and any adaptations needed;
- A history of their allergic reactions;
- If the pupil has asthma and any other medical conditions and necessary detail;
- Details of the medication that the pupil has been prescribed, including their dose, this should include adrenaline devices, antihistamine etc;
- A copy of parental consent to administer medication, including the use of spare adrenaline devices in case of suspected anaphylaxis, and asthma inhalers;
- An indication of how the child's condition may impact on their learning or wellbeing;
- If the child is able to take responsibility for their condition including in an emergency;
- A photograph of each pupil and emergency contact details; and
- A copy of their Allergy and/or Asthma Action Plan.

6. ASSESSING RISK

Allergens can crop up in unexpected places. Staff (including visiting staff) will consider allergies in all activity planning and include it in risk assessments. Some examples include:

- Classroom activities, for example craft using food packaging, science experiments where allergens are present, food lessons or cooking;
- Bringing animals into the school, for example a dog or hatching chick eggs can pose a risk;
- Running activities or clubs where they might hand out snacks or food "treats". Ensure safe food is provided or consider an alternative non-food treat for all pupils; and
- Planning special events, such as cultural days and celebrations.

Inclusion of pupils with allergies must be considered alongside safety and they should not be excluded. If necessary, staff should adapt the activity. The School will ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010.

7. FOOD, INCLUDING MEALTIMES & SNACKS

7.1 Catering in school

The school is committed to providing safe and inclusive meals and snacks for all pupils, staff and visitors, including those with food allergies.

- Due diligence is carried out with regard to allergen management when appointing catering providers;

- All catering staff and other staff preparing food will receive relevant and appropriate allergen awareness training;
- Catering staff are available to discuss the provision of allergen safe meals with parents/ carers;
- Anyone preparing food for those with allergies will follow good hygiene practices, food safety and allergen management procedures;
- The catering team will endeavour to get to know the pupils with allergies and what their allergies are, supported by school staff;
- The catering team will endeavour to provide varied meal options to pupils and staff with allergies;
- The school has robust procedures in place to identify pupils with food allergies, these are:
 - Data is captured on the school admissions (Pupil Medical Questionnaire Responses) form, and specific catering request forms (sent out for those with declared food allergies or intolerances) for new starters, reception pupils, transitional year group pupils (Yr 4, Remove, Lower 6th). The Pupil Medical Questionnaire (Responses) form is checked each day by the School Nurse for new responses.
 - When notified of a pupil allergy via the Pupil Medical Questionnaire (Responses) , the school Nurse places this onto the Whole School Special Diets List, which is communicated to the appropriate staff, including Catering staff, wraparound care staff and the Junior School office. The information is also uploaded to ISAMS by the School Nurse.
 - For succession planning, key personnel are able to access new medical responses/critical medical information in the event that the School Nurse is absent. The Pupil Medical Questionnaire (Responses) form data is located at Shared Drives > Medical Centre Staff Only > Pupil Medical Responses > Pupil Medical Questionnaire (Responses), and can be accessed by the Vice-Principal (Senior), The Head of Boarding, Head of Learning Support, Nursery Manager, Junior Office, Senior Office staff and the Attendance Officer. The Whole School Special Diets is located at Shared Drives > Medical Centre > Diet and allergy lists for catering > Whole School Special Diets (with date of most recent update included in the title). It can be accessed by the Vice-Principal (Senior), The Head of Boarding, Nursery Manager, Head of Learning Support, Junior Office, Senior Office staff, wraparound-care staff, and the Attendance Officer.
 - Where this is a same-day notification of a pupil allergy, the School Nurse (or person checking in their absence) will also contact the Catering Manager directly to communicate this;
- Dishes and menus containing the main 14 allergens (see Allergens definition) will be clearly labelled using full words, not symbols or abbreviations. Other ingredient information will be available on request;

- Information on allergens will be available for the pupil to check independently;
- Pre-packaged food will comply with PPDS legislation (Natasha's Law) requiring the allergen information to be displayed on the packaging;
- Where changes are made to the ingredients which involve the introduction of a known allergen this will be communicated to pupils with dietary needs by the Catering Manager;
- The school's policy on precautionary Allergen Labelling is that the school does not serve products which "may contain" allergens to children with known allergies, except where the parent has provided specific written consent, which is communicated to Sodexo as part of pupil allergy updates;
- Food provided at breakfast club and after school club will follow these procedures;
- The school policy is to request that staff do not bring products into school which contain nuts; and
- All food outlets operating on site are required to follow the procedures outlined above.
- In compliance with EYFS Safer Eating guidelines for children aged 2–5: food served to toddlers and EYFS pupils is prepared to mitigate choking risks (e.g. grapes, cherry tomatoes, and sausages are cut lengthways; raw apples/carrots are grated or cooked; whole nuts are strictly excluded). Children are actively supervised at all times while eating and drinking.

7.2 Food brought into school

Parents of children bringing food into school, including snacks, packed lunches and any other provisions, are requested to ensure that items do not contain nuts within their ingredients (manufacturing or home preparation). Any items sold at school events, such as cake sales, must contain PPDS labelling and be in their original packaging.

7.3 Food bans or restrictions

The school disallows staff giving food-based treats or rewards to children to avoid excluding children with allergens. If parents wish for a birthday cake to celebrate their child's birthday, this can be requested from the School Caterer for a charge (*Medium [12-14 people: £21], [18-20 people: £26], [individual cupcakes - £1.25 each]*). Parents are not permitted to bring birthday cakes onto school sites and activities.

7.4 Food hygiene for pupils

- The school will encourage pupils to wash their hands with soap and warm water before and after eating;
- Parents/carers and pupils will be advised that water bottles and packed lunches should be clearly labelled and food should not be shared or swapped;
- Throwing food is not allowed; and

- Food preparation areas in boarding houses are required to follow food hygiene standards outlined in the policy.

8. EDUCATIONAL VISITS AND SPORTS FIXTURES

- Staff leading the trip will have a register of pupils with allergies and details of their medication. Staff should notify the trip leader if they themselves have any allergies;
- Allergies will be considered on the risk assessment and catering provision put in place;
- Parents, and pupils where appropriate, may be consulted if considered necessary, or if the trip requires an overnight stay;
- Staff (and some pupils, if appropriate) accompanying the trip will be trained to recognise and respond to an allergic reaction;
- Allergens will be clearly labelled on catered packed lunches, in line with PPDS labelling guidance;
- If attending Match Tea at another school, details of their dietary requirements will be sent ahead to ensure they have a safe meal; and
- See Adrenaline Devices section for School Trips and Sports Fixtures.

9. INSECT STINGS

Those with a known insect venom allergy should:

- Avoid walking around in bare feet or sandals when outside and when possible keep arms and legs covered;
- Avoid wearing strong perfumes or cosmetics; and
- Keep food and drink covered.

The school Grounds Staff will monitor the grounds for wasp or bee nests. Pupils (with or without allergies) should notify a member of staff if they find a wasp or bee nest in the school grounds and avoid them.

10. ANIMALS

It's normally the dander (flakes of skin) saliva or urine that causes a person with an animal allergy to react.

Precautions to limit the risk of an allergic reaction include:

- A pupil with a known animal allergy should avoid the animal to which they are allergic;
- If an animal comes on site a risk assessment will be done prior to the visit;
- Areas visited by animals will be cleaned thoroughly;
- Anyone in contact with an animal will wash their hands after contact;

- If an animal lives on site, for example in a Boarding House, pupils, parents and staff will be made aware and consideration and adaptations will be made; and
- School trips that include visits to animals will be carefully risk assessed.

11. ALLERGIC RHINITIS/ HAY FEVER

All pupils can attend the medical centre for consideration of antihistamine medication where required. Where staff or the school nurse identify pupils with recurrent or persisting allergic rhinitis/hayfever symptoms, contact will be made with parents/carers to discuss this. In agreement with parents, the School Nurse may undertake a medication safety assessment for individual pupils who may need to carry antihistamine medication on a case by case basis.

12. INCLUSION AND MENTAL HEALTH

Allergies can have a significant impact on mental health and wellbeing. Pupils may experience anxiety and depression and are more susceptible to bullying.

- Staff are alert to the possibility of allergy-related bullying and are proactive in safeguarding the wellbeing and inclusion of pupils with allergies;
- No child should be excluded from taking part in a school activity, whether on the school premises or a school trip because of their allergies;
- Pupils with allergies may require additional pastoral support including regular check-ins from their Tutor or Class Teacher etc;
- Affected pupils will be given consideration in advance of wider school discussions about allergy and school Allergy Awareness initiatives;
- Bullying related to allergy will be treated in line with the school's anti-bullying policy; and
- Uniform policies take into account that children may need emergency medication near them at all times.

13. ADRENALINE DEVICES

See the government guidance on [Adrenaline Devices in Schools](#).

13.1 Storage of adrenaline devices

- Pupils prescribed with adrenaline devices will have easy access to two, in-date devices at all times;
- School spare adrenaline devices are purchased as epi-pen products by default for consistency. These are stored in an insulated allergy bag in specified locations and are sealed with an easy-break tamper-proof tag, which includes the expiry date. The presence of the allergy bag and intact seals are checked by the School Nurse regularly and is documented on an adjacent checklist;
- Spot checks will be made to ensure adrenaline devices are where they should be and in date;

- Adrenaline devices must not be kept locked away or in rooms with restricted access;
- Adrenaline devices should be stored at moderate temperatures (see manufacturer's guidelines), not in direct sunlight or above a heat source (for example a radiator); and
- Used or out of date devices will be disposed of as sharps.

13.2 Spare adrenaline devices

This school has two sets of spare adrenaline devices to be used in accordance with government guidance, each set containing 2 x Epipens 0.3mg, and 2 x Epipens 0.15 mg (EYFS ages 2 - 5 and Junior/under 6 years). They are contained in a Green/Insulated Medical Bag marked ALLERGY RESPONSE and are co-located with an Emergency Asthma inhaler kit.

The locations of spare adrenaline devices are clearly signposted. These are located at: St. Nicholas House (Ground Floor/Inner lobby entrance) and Chadlington House (Ground floor, rear entrance).

The School Nurse is responsible for:

- In conjunction with the Allergen Lead and Health and Safety Group, deciding how many spare devices are required;
- What dosage is required, based on the Resuscitation Council UK's age-based guidance;
- Which brand(s) to buy. Schools are recommended to buy a single brand if possible to avoid confusion;
- The purchasing of spare adrenaline devices. See government guidance above; and
- Distribution around the school site and clear signage.

13.3 Adrenaline devices on off-site activities

- No child with a prescribed adrenaline device will be able to go on a school trip without two of their own devices. It is the trip leader's responsibility to check they have them;
- Adrenaline devices will be kept close to the pupils at all times e.g. not stored in the hold of the coach when travelling or left in changing rooms;
- Adrenaline devices will be protected from extreme temperatures;
- Staff accompanying the pupils will be aware of pupils with allergies and be trained to recognise and respond to an allergic reaction; and
- Consider whether to take spare adrenaline devices to off-site activities. This should be recorded as part of the risk assessment process.

14. RESPONDING TO AN ALLERGIC REACTION /ANAPHYLAXIS

See the appendix to this policy for details of how to recognise and respond to an allergic reaction.

In all cases:

- A pupil with a known allergy should be treated in accordance with their Allergy Action Plan and/or Individual Healthcare Plan.
- If anaphylaxis is suspected adrenaline should be administered without delay, using the school's spare device if needed.
- Anyone who has had suspected anaphylaxis and received adrenaline must go to hospital, even if they appear to have recovered. A member of staff should accompany the pupil in an ambulance until a parent or guardian arrives.

Depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary to instigate the school's wider Emergency Response Plan.

15. TRAINING

The school is committed to ensuring that all staff receive regular (at least annual) allergy awareness training. This training should cover all staff, including teaching staff, support staff, catering staff, site staff and others who may oversee children at breakfast or after-school clubs.

This training will cover:

- Understanding what an allergy is;
- How to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction occurring;
- How to recognise and treat an allergic reaction, including anaphylaxis;
- How to treat an asthma attack using a reliever inhaler;
- How the school manages allergy, for example understanding the school's Allergy Safety Policy, emergency response, documentation, communication etc;
- How to check who has an allergy, and how to use an IHP and Allergy or Asthma Action Plan;
- Where adrenaline devices are kept (both prescribed devices and spare devices) and how to access them;
- The importance of inclusion of pupils with food allergies, the impact of allergy on mental health and wellbeing and the risk of allergy related bullying;
- Understanding food labelling;
- How to report an allergic reaction or near miss; and
- Taking part in an anaphylaxis drill.

The school will carry out an anaphylaxis drill once a year. This involves an exercise simulating an event where a pupil or member of staff has an allergic reaction and testing the whole school response.

16. ASTHMA

The school understands that it is vital that pupils with allergies keep their asthma well controlled. Asthma can exacerbate allergic reactions and poorly managed asthma increases the severity of an allergic reaction.

- Staff will be aware of common asthma triggers which may include airborne allergens such as pollen, house dust mite, mould spores or pet dander and food allergens.
- All pupils with asthma should have an Asthma Action Plan. Where relevant, an Asthma Action Plan will be in addition to an Allergy Action Plan.
- If available, the Asthma Action Plan will be included in the pupil's Individual Healthcare Plan, and will include medical and parental consent for staff to administer medication, including an emergency reliever inhaler in the event of an asthma attack.
- Children and young people known to have asthma should have their own reliever inhaler at school at all times, and on the journey to and from school.
- Where a pupil is able to manage their asthma themselves, they should keep their inhaler on them. If they cannot, it should be stored in a clearly labelled, known and easily accessible location.
- Emergency salbutamol inhalers are co-located at the same location as adrenaline pens. These are obtained from UK-based recognised medical suppliers. They are stored in a rigid orange box marked as Emergency Asthma Inhaler kit, which are sealed with an easy-break tamper-proof tag that includes the expiry date. These are checked by the School Nurse at the same time as the adrenaline pens. Disposal is via local pharmacies. School First Aiders receive information on asthma attack response procedures. The School Nurse can provide additional training to individuals or groups of staff upon request.

17. REPORTING ALLERGIC REACTIONS

The school will log all allergic reaction incidents and near-misses as soon as is feasible after they occur.

- Each record should include: Who was affected, what happened, when and where, why the incident occurred (as far as is known), how staff and the pupil responded; what was done to support the individual; whether emergency services were called and how the incident concluded
- All incident reports should be shared with:
 - the pupil's parents or carers, who will be given the opportunity to discuss the incident and contribute their views to the review; and
 - the Named Allergy Governor and the governing body, so they can consider what lessons to learn and whether policy changes are required.
- Any learning from an incident should be shared appropriately with staff so they can act on it.
- It may be necessary to share the report with other agencies, for example:

- schools that operate as food businesses must report any allergen-related food safety incidents to their local authority;
- Incidents arising directly from a work activity that result in death or immediate hospitalisation must be reported to the Health and Safety Executive under RIDDOR.
- Following any incident or near miss the school will meet with the child or young person and their parents/ carers to ensure they are confident the setting remains safe.
- The school recognises the impact of an incident or near miss not just on the individual and their family, but also on staff who responded and children who witnessed it and will offer appropriate support.

APPENDIX 1:

ALLERGY AND ANAPHYLAXIS RESPONSE PLAN - IMMEDIATE STEPS

Signs and symptoms of a mild to moderate allergy may include:

- Swollen lips, face or eyes;
- Itchy or tingling mouth;
- Hives or itchy skin/rash;
- Abdominal pain, vomiting;
- A change in behaviour.

Response:

- Stay with person and call for help (Medical Centre - 8567, Junior School Office - 8566/8577, Senior School Office - 8555);
- Locate/send for School Epipens and Asthma Box;
- Phone parent/guardian, give age-appropriate antihistamine - if advised by parent (or if permission is documented in a care plan/recorded on a pupil's medical form, or as advised by the School Nurse in the absence of being able to contact the parent/guardian at the time);
- Make a note of the time;
- Continue to monitor the pupil for at least 60 minutes in case the reaction gets worse;
- If any signs of anaphylaxis are present, or you SUSPECT anaphylaxis – give adrenaline without delay and call 999/follow instructions from the Call Handler.

Signs and symptoms of ANAPHYLAXIS may include;

A – Airway, persistent cough, hoarse voice, difficulty swallowing, swollen tongue

B – Breathing, difficult or noisy breathing, wheeze or cough

C – Circulation, dizziness, pale or floppy, sleepy, collapse or unconsciousness

SERIOUS ALLERGIC REACTIONS / ANAPHYLAXIS

The most serious type of reaction is called **ANAPHYLAXIS**. Anaphylaxis is uncommon, and children experiencing it almost always fully recover.

In rare cases, anaphylaxis can be fatal. It should always be treated as a time-critical medical emergency.

Anaphylaxis *usually occurs within 20 minutes of eating a food but can begin 2-3 hours later.*

People who have never had an allergic reaction before, or who have only had mild to moderate allergic reactions previously, can experience anaphylaxis.

Response:

- Treat the person where they are.
- Take the medication to the person, rather than moving them, they are not to stand up.
- Lie person down, raise their legs (allow to sit up with legs elevated if this aids breathing)
- Administer (or help them to self-administer) their own EpiPen, Jext Pen or EURneffy spray
- Note and record time
- **Call 999 or 112, request an Ambulance and** say ANAPHYLAXIS
- Locate/send for School EpiPens and Asthma Box if the person's adrenaline device dose is unknown/not available. Tell the 999 call handler you have School Spare EpiPens 0.3mg and 0.15mg. Follow their instructions
- Loosen tight neck clothing. Advise them to remain lying down (or sitting up if breathing difficulty/keep legs elevated)
- **If the person is prescribed a reliever inhaler** and still has breathing difficulty following Adrenaline use, advise/assist them to take their own inhaler and ideally a spacer device
- If uncertain whether permission has been given for use of the School Spare Salbutamol inhaler, inform the 999 call handler and follow their advice. Note – the school spare inhaler cannot be used for anyone who has not been prescribed a reliever, or combination inhaler.
- Call the Medical Centre 8567, call parents and alert Senior Management Team
- Repeat adrenaline device dose after 5 minutes if no better, or feeling worse, call 999 again
- Hand used Adrenaline Pens to Ambulance Crew, report times doses given