St Patrick's C E Primary Academy

Allergy Management Policy

Policy Statement

The school is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all pupils, including those with allergies. We recognise that allergic reactions can range from mild symptoms to anaphylaxis, which is a potentially life-threatening medical emergency. This policy aims to minimise the risk of allergic reactions and ensure that staff are prepared to respond effectively in an emergency.

Purpose

This policy aims to:

- Safeguard pupils with allergies.
- Ensure appropriate management of allergy-related medical conditions.
- Promote awareness of allergies across the school community.
- Ensure staff are trained to recognise and respond to allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis.
- Support pupils with allergies to participate fully in school life.

Roles and Responsibilities

Parents and Carers

Parents/carers are responsible for:

- Informing the school of any diagnosed allergies.
- Providing an up-to-date Allergy Action Plan completed by a healthcare professional.
- Providing prescribed medication, including two in-date adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) where required.
- Informing the school of any changes to their child's allergy management or treatment.

School Staff

All staff are responsible for:

- Being aware of pupils in their care with allergies.
- Following Allergy Action Plans.
- Responding promptly to suspected allergic reactions.
- Taking reasonable steps to minimise exposure to known allergens.

Allergy Coordinator

Amanda Harrison Pollard is responsible for:

- Maintaining records of pupils with allergies.
- Monitoring and recording allergy medication held in school.
- Checking medication regularly and notifying parents when replacement medication is required.
- Ensuring Allergy Action Plans are current and accessible.
- Maintaining records of any allergy incidents and medication administration.

Allergy Action Plans

All pupils with diagnosed allergies must have an up-to-date Allergy Action Plan provided by parents/carers and completed by an appropriate healthcare professional.

The Allergy Action Plan will:

- Be stored with the pupil's medication.
- Be made available to relevant staff.
- Contain clear instructions on recognising symptoms and responding to allergic reactions.

Emergency Management of Anaphylaxis

Staff should be alert to signs of anaphylaxis, including:

Airway

- Swollen tongue.
- Difficulty swallowing.
- Throat tightness.
- Change in voice.

Breathing

- Difficulty or noisy breathing.
- Persistent cough.
- Wheezing.
- Chest tightness.

Circulation

- Dizziness or fainting.
- Collapse.
- Pale, floppy appearance in younger children.
- Loss of consciousness.

Emergency Procedure

If anaphylaxis is suspected:

1. Stay with the pupil and call for assistance.
2. Lay the pupil flat with legs raised where possible. If breathing is difficult, allow them to sit up.
3. Administer an adrenaline auto-injector immediately.
4. Call 999 and state that the pupil is experiencing anaphylaxis.
5. Note the time the medication was administered.
6. If symptoms do not improve after 5 minutes and a second AAI is available, administer a second dose.
7. Inform parents/carers as soon as possible.
8. The pupil must be taken to hospital for assessment, even if they appear to recover.

Storage and Management of Medication

- Medication will be stored safely, clearly labelled and readily accessible.
- Medication will never be locked away.
- Pupils who are able and authorised to carry their own medication will be encouraged to do so.
- Allergy medication will be checked regularly by Amanda Harrison Pollard to ensure it remains in date and available when required.
- Expired medication will be returned to parents for safe disposal.

Staff Training

All members of staff complete **online allergy and anaphylaxis training annually**.

In addition:

- New staff will receive allergy awareness information as part of their induction.
- Training covers recognition of allergic reactions, use of adrenaline auto-injectors, avoidance of allergens and emergency procedures.
- Training records will be maintained by the school.

Inclusion, Wellbeing and Bullying

The school will ensure that pupils with allergies are not disadvantaged or excluded from activities because of their allergy.

The school takes allergy-related bullying seriously. Any incidents of teasing, intimidation or bullying related to a pupil's allergy will be dealt with through the school's Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies.

Food and Catering

The school will:

- Work with catering providers to identify allergens in food products.

- Ensure allergen information is available where required.
- Consider pupils' allergies when planning food-related activities.
- Communicate with parents regarding dietary requirements.
- Minimise the risk of cross-contamination where food is prepared or served.

Educational Visits and Sporting Activities

Pupils with allergies will be encouraged to participate fully in educational visits and sporting activities.

Where necessary:

- Risk assessments will be completed.
- Relevant medication will accompany the pupil.
- Staff attending visits will be aware of pupils' allergies and emergency procedures.
- Appropriate arrangements will be made with venue providers and catering facilities.

Risk Assessments

Individual risk assessments will be undertaken for pupils with significant allergies where appropriate.

Risk assessments will be reviewed:

- On admission to the school.
- Following any serious allergic reaction.
- When medical needs change.
- At least annually.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if guidance or legislation changes.

Policy Lead: Jordan Rowlands
Review Frequency: Annually

Approved by:
Date: 01/09/2026 **Review Date:** 01/09/2027