

Kingsholm C of E Primary School and Nursery

Benedicts Law/ Allergy Policy

"I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness."

John 10:10

Christ taught us that his purpose was to give life in all its fullness. Through our Christ like attitude, we seek to do the same.

This is at the heart of all we do.

Written by	Business & Operations Manager
Policy Reference material, guidance or link policies	Guidance on first aid for schools – DFEE First Aid Policy Supporting Pupils with Medical Condition Policy Health and Safety Policy Data Protection Policy
Reviewed by	Headteacher Tony Larnier
Ratified by	Full Governing Body
Ratification date	September 2026
Review cycle	Annual
Next review date	September 2027

Glossary:

Allergy Safety Lead

Person(s) responsible for managing allergy procedures, training, records, and policy reviews.

Helen Howe and Lindsay Bishop

Anaphylaxis

A severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction that requires immediate treatment and emergency response.

AAI/AD (Adrenaline Auto-Injector)

Emergency medication (e.g. EpiPen/ Jext) used to treat anaphylaxis. Pupils prescribed one should have access to it at all times.

Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP)

A personalised plan detailing how a pupil's allergy will be managed in school and what support is required.

Allergy Action Plan

A medical document providing clear instructions on recognising and responding to an allergic reaction or anaphylaxis.

Risk Assessment

A review of activities, trips, food-related events, or other situations to reduce the chance of allergen exposure.

Near Miss

An event that could have caused harm to a person with allergies but did not result in injury.

Serious Incident

A situation involving actual harm or significant risk of harm due to an allergy or medical condition.

Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy

The school's overarching policy for managing medical needs. This Allergy Policy should be read alongside it, and Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) should align with both policies.

Key Points:

- The school aims to provide a safe, inclusive environment for pupils with allergies.
- All staff receive annual allergy awareness and emergency response training.
- Pupils with significant allergies should have up-to-date IHPs and allergy action plans.
- Measures such as handwashing, food-sharing restrictions, allergen awareness, and risk assessments help minimise risks.
- Emergency medication must be readily available, and staff are trained to use it.
- All allergy incidents and near misses must be recorded, reviewed, and used to improve safety procedures.

Introduction

The Governing Body at Kingsholm C of E Primary School and Nursery is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment where all pupils can learn, develop, and thrive. This Allergy Policy forms part of the school's wider arrangements for supporting pupils with medical conditions and should be read in conjunction with the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.

Aims

This policy aims to:

Set out our school's approach to allergy safety, 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

Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education (DfE)'s statutory guidance on [allergy safety 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](#) (AAI/ AD e.g. Epi Pens), and the following legislation:

[The Food Information Regulations 2014](#)

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/stronger-protections-for-children-with-allergies-in-school>

<https://benedictblythe.com/benedicts-law/>

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for ensuring:

Risks relating to pupils with allergy are included in the risk register and actively managed

The school has an allergy safety policy which sets out:

- Arrangements to reduce the risk of individuals coming into contact with their known allergens
- Emergency response plans for cases of anaphylaxis
- The governing board delegates the day-to-day implementation of this policy to the allergy safety lead.

School SENDCo is responsible for:

- Implementing this allergy safety policy
- Reviewing the allergy safety policy at least annually, updating it when needed, and making sure it is published
- Promoting and maintaining allergy awareness across our school community
- Developing and reviewing arrangements for the safe storage and disposal of AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens).

Ensuring:

- All allergy information is up to date and readily available to relevant members of staff
- All pupils who require support with allergies have an up-to-date individual healthcare plan (IHP)
- All pupils with a known food or insect sting allergy have up-to-date allergy action plans issued by a medical professional

- All staff receive regular allergy awareness 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
- Serious incidents and 'near misses' relating to allergy safety are recorded and reported as appropriate, and to consider and share with staff:
- What lessons there are to learn
- Any potential changes to the medical conditions and/or allergy safety policies and/or to any pupil's IHP

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Deciding (in discussion with the parents/carers and any relevant healthcare professionals) whether a pupil's allergy can be managed through the adjustments made under the school's medical conditions policy or whether an IHP is required to specify arrangements that reflect the pupil's circumstances

The Allergy Safety Lead is responsible for:

- Checking spare AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) are present and in date on a monthly basis
- Making sure that replacement AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) are obtained when expiry dates approach

All teaching and support staff are responsible for:

- Promoting and maintaining allergy awareness among pupils
- Maintaining awareness of our allergy safety policy and procedures
- Being able to recognise the signs of severe allergic reactions and anaphylaxis
- Being aware of specific pupils with allergies in their care
- Reducing the risk to pupils with known allergies coming into contact with known allergens
- Ensuring the wellbeing and inclusion of pupils with allergies
- Reporting any allergic reaction or case of anaphylaxis to the allergy safety lead

Parents/carers are responsible for:

- Being aware of our school's allergy safety 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 AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens), auto-injectors and any other medication, including inhalers, antihistamine etc., and making sure these are replaced in a timely manner
- Following the school's guidance on food brought in to be shared
- Updating the school on any changes to their child's condition.

If age-appropriate, these pupils are responsible for:

- Being aware of their allergens and the risks they pose
- Carrying their AD on their person and only using it for its intended purpose
- Understanding how and when to use their AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens).

Pupils without allergies are responsible for:

- Being aware of allergens and the risk they pose to their peers
- Older pupils might also be expected to support their peers and staff in the case of an emergency.

Identifying individuals at risk

Allergy is a spectrum of different allergic diseases. Reactions occur when a susceptible person is exposed to something (an "allergen") they are allergic to. Common allergic conditions include:

- Hay fever (allergic rhinitis), triggered by allergens carried in the air, such as pollen, house dust mite, animal fur/feathers, or mould
- Skin allergies (e.g. eczema, contact dermatitis, contact urticaria/hives) caused by contact with allergens including house dust mite, pollen and substances like nickel, latex and some chemicals
- Food allergy, which can cause symptoms ranging from mild itching in the mouth to "whole body" reactions including anaphylaxis
- Asthma which may be triggered by airborne allergens
- Allergy to insect stings and medicines

Identifying pupils at risk

We will:

For new starters, send a form to all parent/carers of pupils after their place at the school has been confirmed, but before their first school year starts, to confirm any allergy the pupil has and whether they carry medication. Where a pupil has a new diagnosis and/or has moved to the school mid-term, we will send a form and put arrangements in immediately. We will send a reminder to parents/carers at the start of each year asking them to update their child's medical information as necessary.

We ask that parents/carers proactively inform us by either phone call to the school 01452 530777 or an email to virtualoffice@kingsholm.gloucs.sch.uk if their child's medical needs change during the school year.

Identifying staff and visitors at risk

- Asking new staff to provide details of their allergies in advance of their start date
- Asking visitors to provide details of their allergies upon arrival if nothing has been declared. – On signing in by office staff.

Individual healthcare plans (IHP)

Pupils should have an IHP if they:

- Have an allergy which has a functional impact on them in the school environment.
- They are at risk of harm because of their allergies; and
- Require arrangements which are additional to or different from those made generally.

It is not necessary for a pupil to have a formal diagnosis of allergy for them to have an IHP. Healthcare professionals may decide that it is more appropriate to accept that the child shows symptoms, rather than proceeding to a formal diagnosis.

The IHP will set out the additional and/or different arrangements that will be in place for supporting the pupil. The school will make every effort to make sure that arrangements are put in place within 2 weeks, or by the beginning of the relevant term for pupils who are new to our school.

Not all children with an allergy will require an IHP. Some allergies will have little or no impact on the pupil while they are at school or pose no risk to the pupil. Some allergies will not require arrangements which are additional to or different from those made generally. The headteacher is responsible for deciding (in discussion with the parents/carers and any relevant healthcare professionals) whether a pupil's allergy can be managed through the adjustments made under the school's medical conditions policy or whether an IHP is required to specify arrangements that reflect the pupil's circumstances.

The school will consider the following principles:

- If the arrangements or support which a pupil requires would be available to any pupil as part of normal policies, an IHP may not be required
- If the pupil only needs non-prescription medication and the school's medical conditions policy would permit them to carry and administer it, an IHP may not be required
- IHPs will be reviewed at least annually and more frequently if the pupil's needs have changed. Where a pupil moves on to a new school or college, their IHP will be shared as part of the transition.

Allergy and asthma action plans

All pupils who have a known allergy to a food or insect stings should be issued with an appropriate allergy action plan by their healthcare professional.

All pupils who have asthma should be issued with an asthma action plan by their healthcare professional.

- The plans include medical and parental consent for staff to administer emergency medicines, including AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) for anaphylaxis or reliever inhaler in the event of an asthma attack.
- The allergy action plan and/or asthma action plan should be attached to the pupil's IHP. Whenever the allergy action plan is updated, the pupil's IHP should be reviewed to incorporate it.

Register of pupils with known allergies

The school maintains a register of pupils who have a known allergy. The register includes: Known allergens and risk factors for anaphylaxis

- Whether a pupil has been prescribed AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) (and if so, what type and dose)
- Where a pupil has been prescribed an AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) whether parental consent has been given to administer emergency medication
- A photograph of each pupil to allow a visual check to be
- The register is kept and can be checked quickly by any member of staff as part of initiating an emergency response
- Allowing all pupils to keep their AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) with them will reduce delays and allows for confirmation of consent without the need to check the register.

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.

Minimising risk

Hygiene procedures

- Pupils are reminded to wash their hands before and after eating
- Sharing of food, food containers, and food utensils is not allowed
- Pupils have their own named water bottles, and lunch boxes provided to pupils with food allergies will be clearly labelled with the name of the child for whom they are intended
- Where food is not directly provided by the school, parental engagement and permission will be sought in advance

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
- The school will engage with caterers to understand the controls in place to ensure that food service complies with relevant requirements
- School menus are available for parents/carers and pupils to view with ingredients clearly labelled, and catering staff are available to discuss the provision of allergy safe meals with parents/carers
- Where changes are made to school menus, we will make sure these comply with legislation, and 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).

Where food is provided by the school, staff will understand how to read labels for food allergens. Catering staff follow hygiene and allergy procedures when preparing food to avoid cross-contamination.

Insect bites/stings

When outdoors:

Shoes should always be worn

Food and drink should be covered

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

Visits and trips

- No pupils with allergies will be excluded from taking part
- The school will plan accordingly for all visits and trips, and arrange for the staff members involved to be aware of pupils' allergies and to have received appropriate training
- The school will conduct a risk assessment for any pupil at risk of anaphylaxis taking part in a school trip
- Pupils at risk of anaphylaxis should have their own AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) with them

- Staff trained to administer AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) in an emergency will be present on the school trip
- Appropriate measures will be taken in line with the school's AD protocols for off-site events and school trips (see section 8.5)

Procedures for handling an allergic reaction

All staff are trained to recognise the signs of both mild and severe allergic reactions (known as anaphylaxis) and respond appropriately:

- Staff are trained in the administration of AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) to minimise delays in an emergency
- If the pupil has an allergy action plan, this must be followed

Two spare school AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) device will only be used if:

- The pupil does not have a prescribed AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens)
- The pupil's prescribed AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) are not available or misfire

Prescribed AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens)

Pupils who are prescribed AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) are encouraged to always keep them near or on their person including when travelling to or from the school and on school trips. It is recommended that two devices are carried at all times. Pupils with prescribed AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) should take them home with them at the end of each school day, and parents are responsible for ensuring that they are in date.

If a pupil cannot keep their AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) with them in the classroom (due to age or other considerations), then the devices will be stored with a trained member of staff working with them.

A copy of the pupil's allergy action plan is kept alongside their medication, as it includes instructions on how it should be used in an emergency.

Pupils and parents/carers to take individually prescribed AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) home (for example, at the end of the day for the journey home) and for checking that they remain in date.

How records will be kept of which pupils have been provided with prescribed AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) (and an allergy action plan)

Spare ADs and inhalers

Please note current regulations only allow schools to purchase AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens), auto-injectors AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) as spare devices. Non-injectable AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) devices (nasal spray) may be prescribed to individuals but cannot currently be stocked as a spare device. If an individual who is prescribed nasal AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens), suffers anaphylaxis, a school's spare AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) may be used in an emergency. Schools can purchase an emergency asthma reliever inhaler which can only be used if the pupil's prescribed inhaler is not available and where written consent has been obtained.

The allergy safety lead is responsible for sourcing spare AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) and an emergency asthma reliever inhaler and ensuring they are stored according to the guidance.

- Spare devices will be ordered through an education supplier.

- Spare AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) will be stored with the school office team.
- Spare AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) will be kept with the school office team
- In pairs, in case a second one is necessary
- Separate from any pupils' prescribed AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) and clearly labelled to avoid confusion

Disposal

AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) can only be used once. Once an AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) has been used, it will be disposed of in line with the manufacturer's instructions, for example, in a sharps bin for collection by the local council).

Using spare AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) in an emergency situation without prior consent

The [Human Medicines \(Amendment\) Regulations 2017](#) do not require consent to have been obtained for spare AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) devices to be used in an emergency.

In an emergency, anyone may take reasonable action to save a life without checking whether prior consent has been given. This avoids potentially fatal delays in treatment.

Pupils at risk of anaphylaxis who are able to administer their own AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens), should carry their own AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) with them on school trips and off-site events

Use of AAI/AD (e.g. Epi Pens) when off school premises

Serious incidents and 'near misses'

A serious incident is any event relating directly to a medical condition (including allergy) in which a pupil, member of staff or visitor with a medical condition or allergy is harmed or is placed at an immediate and significant risk of harm, including situations requiring emergency medication, urgent clinical intervention or attendance by emergency services.

A 'near miss' is an event relating directly to a medical condition (including allergy) that did not result in harm but had the clear potential to do so – for example, where an error, omission, or system failure could reasonably have led to a serious incident had circumstances been only slightly different.

Incident recording

The school will record serious incidents and 'near misses' relating to allergy safety as soon as is feasible. All allergy-related incidents, anaphylaxis events, medication administration, and near misses will be recorded on CPOMS as soon as practicable. Records should include details of the incident, actions taken, medication administered, communication with parents/carers, and any follow-up actions required.

The incident will be recorded in the accident book, including the following information:

- Who was affected
- What happened, when and where
- Why the incident occurred (as far as is known)
- How staff and pupils responded and what was done to support the individual
- Whether emergency services were called
- How the incident concluded
- The school will approach serious incidents and 'near misses' in a 'no blame' spirit of seeking to learn lessons.

Incident reporting

The parents/carers of a pupil aged up to 16 should be notified of the incident or 'near miss' as soon as possible.

The school will share the report with the pupil's parents, the pupil or the individual involved. They will be given the opportunity to discuss what happened and to contribute their views to the consequent lessons learned review. The school will then confirm what we have learnt from the incident and outline any actions we are taking as a result.

In some cases, the impact of exposure to an allergen at school may be delayed and not recognised until the pupil is at home. This means that incident reporting is not limited to staff – the pupil, parents/carers or others (such as healthcare professionals) will need to report to the school if there has been an incident with a delayed reaction.

Staff will always share the incident report with SENDCo, will consider whether the allergy safety arrangements in place were appropriate or if changes are needed to this policy and/or the pupil's IHP. Any learning will be shared appropriately with staff so they can act on them and reduce the chance of an incident reoccurring.

The school will also share the report with other agencies in the following circumstances:
With the Health and Safety Executive (HSE): incidents which arise directly out of the way the school carried out a work activity which results in death or immediate hospitalization. For example, where a pupil has suffered harm after consuming an allergen due to incorrect preparation of food by a member of staff.

To the local authority: any allergen-related food safety incidents.

In the event that the incident or 'near miss' was related to the delivery of a care plan or action plan issued by a healthcare professional, the relevant healthcare professional will be notified.

Allergy awareness

Staff training

The school ensures that all staff expected to be present during times when pupils are scheduled to be on site receive allergy awareness training at least annually. New starters will complete this training as part of their induction.

This includes permanent staff, temporary staff, supply teachers, peripatetic staff, agency workers and regular volunteers. It also includes catering staff and others who may oversee pupils at breakfast or after-school clubs. It does not include contractors carrying out work with no pupil-facing role such as builders, electricians or other ad hoc maintenance personnel.

The school has purchased 'training pens' from EpiPen and Jext so staff can practise safely and be familiar with the differences.

The school will conduct allergy safety drills. This is a simulated case of anaphylaxis to test out how staff respond, without risk to any individual. The results of the drill will be recorded and used to inform the ongoing review of this policy.

Allergy awareness training will ensure that all 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:
- Calling emergency services and informing parents/carers
- How to locate and administer emergency medication
- How to use the medication/device in an emergency
- Understand the impact allergy can have on a pupil's wellbeing
- Understand the school'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')

Awareness of allergy safety policy

This allergy safety policy will be published on the school's website and shared with parents/carers at the start of the school year.

All staff should be aware of and understand the policy as part of annual allergy awareness training.

Wellbeing

Pupils with allergies will have additional support through:

- Pastoral care
- Regular check-ins with their class teacher
- Reassurance that steps are being taken to minimise the risks of exposure to allergen and that robust measures are in place in the event of anaphylaxis
- The school will respond to any instance of bullying in line with its behaviour policy.

Wellbeing support following an incident or 'near miss'

The school recognises that an incident or a 'near miss' is a serious event with a potential impact not only on the pupil but their family, those involved in responding, and any witnesses. The school will provide support to those involved.

The school will support staff involved in any incident or 'near miss'.

See section 9 of the policy for more detail on incidents and 'near misses'.

Information sharing

Information about an individual's health is considered special category data under UK GDPR. It will therefore be handled in line with our data protection policy.

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be monitored by the allergy safety lead.

It will be reviewed and approved annually by the allergy safety lead, or more frequently if a serious incident or 'near miss' identifies an area for improvement.

Checklist

☐ Awareness training	Gloucestershire NHS training in allergy awareness and emergency response, for both anaphylaxis and acute asthma
☐ Wellbeing	Ensure as a school we continue to include all.
☐ Minimising risk	Whole school bans on certain food types, good cleaning schedules.
☐ Food allergy	Ensure all relevant staff are aware, advise all families of food used in school menus.
☐ Identification	Risk assessments in place shared across school staff. MIS Systems.
☐ Individual healthcare plans	Continual review and update of IHP's shared amongst staff through MIS Systems.
☐ Prescribed (AAJ/ AD (E.G. EPI PENS). (E.G. EPI PENS). e.g. Epi Pens),	Medication kept secure within vicinity of child. Staff trained to administer within year group.
☐ Spare (AAJ/ AD (E.G. EPI PENS). (E.G. EPI PENS). e.g. Epi Pens), devices	Kept secure within school office, member of office staff charged with ensuring medication is up to date.
☐ Visits and trips	Named member of staff who is trained holds medication securely during all trips and visits.
☐ Serious incidents and 'near misses'	All administered medication is noted on MIS system and parents/carers informed, should any errors occur, investigation by SLT would take place in liaison with family.
☐ Information	As and when required information will be shared in a secure way with the relevant parties.
☐ Awareness of the allergy safety policy	Requirement for all staff to read policies relating to allergy safety and access relevant training.