



# Deanwood Primary School

## Allergen and Anaphylaxis Policy

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**Policy Scope:** Deanwood Primary School

**Responsibility:** Local Governing Body

**Review Frequency:** Annually

**Review Date:** December 2024

The Governing Body of Deanwood Primary School adopted this policy in November 2023.

Signed by D Giles, Chair of Governors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Giles", is written over a horizontal line.



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## Statement of Intent

Deanwood Primary School strives to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all members of the school community. For this reason, this policy is to be adhered to by all staff members, parents and pupils with the intention of minimizing the risk of anaphylaxis occurring whilst at school.

In order to effectively implement this policy and ensure the necessary control measures are in place, parents are responsible for working alongside the school in identifying allergens and potential risks, in order to ensure the health and safety of their children.

The school does not guarantee a completely allergen-free environment; however, this policy will be utilized to minimize the risk of exposure to allergens, encourage self-responsibility and plan for an effective response to possible emergencies.

## 1. Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to legislation and government guidance including, but not limited to, the following: -

- The Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2017
- Department of Health (2017) 'Guidance on the use of adrenaline auto-injectors in schools'
- DfE (2017) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'

This policy will be implemented in conjunction with the following school and Trust policies and documents: -

- Health and Safety policy
- Administration of medicines in school policy
- Supporting pupils with Medical Conditions policy
- Educational visits policy
- Anaphylaxis risk assessment
- Register of AAls
- AAl record

## 2. Definitions

For the purpose of this policy: -

**Allergy** – is a condition in which the body has an exaggerated response to a substance. This is also known as hypersensitivity.

**Allergen** – is a normally harmless substance that triggers an allergic reaction for a susceptible person.

**Allergic reaction** – is the body's reaction to an allergen and can be identified

by, but not limited to, the following symptoms: -

- Hives
- Generalised flushing of the skin
- Itching and tingling of the skin
- Burning sensation in the mouth
- Swelling of the throat, mouth or face
- Feeling wheezy
- Abdominal pain
- Rising anxiety
- Nausea and vomiting
- Alterations in heart rate
- Feeling of weakness

**Anaphylaxis** – is also referred to as anaphylactic shock, which is a sudden, severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. This kind of reaction may include the following symptoms: -

- Difficulty breathing
- Feeling faint
- Reduced level of consciousness
- Lips turning blue
- Collapsing
- Becoming unresponsive

### **3. Roles and responsibilities**

The Head of school in conjunction with SENCo is responsible for: -

- The development, implementation and monitoring of the Allergen and Anaphylaxis policy
- Ensuring that parents are informed of their responsibilities in relation to their child's allergies
- Ensuring that all school trips are planned in accordance with the Educational visits policy, taking into account any potential risks that the activities involved pose to pupils with known allergies
- Ensuring that all designated first aiders are trained in the use of adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) and the management of anaphylaxis
- Ensuring that all staff members are provided with information regarding anaphylaxis, as well as the necessary precautions and action to take
- Ensuring that catering staff are aware of, and act in accordance with, the school's policies regarding food and hygiene, including this policy
- Ensuring that catering staff are aware of any pupils' allergies which may affect the school meals provided.

All staff members are responsible for: -

- Acting in accordance with the school's policies and procedures at all

times

- Attending relevant training regarding allergens and anaphylaxis
- Being familiar with and implementing pupils' individual healthcare plans (IHPs) as appropriate
- Responding immediately and appropriately in the event of a medical emergency
- Reinforcing effective hygiene practices, including those in relation to the management of food
- Promoting hand washing before and after eating
- Monitoring all food supplied to pupils by both the school and parents, including snacks, ensuring food containing known allergens is not provided
- Ensuring that pupils do not share food and drink in order to prevent accidental contact with an allergen
- Ensuring that any necessary medication is out of the reach of pupils but still easily accessible to staff members. This is kept in the medical room.
- Liaising with the school nursing team and pupils' parents to ensure the necessary control measures are in place.

All parents are responsible for: -

- Notifying the school of the following information: -
  - Their child's allergens
  - The nature of the allergic reaction
  - What medication to administer
  - Specified control measures and what can be done to prevent the occurrence of an allergic reaction.
- Keeping the school up-to-date with their child's medical information
- Providing the school with up-to-date emergency contact information
- Providing the school with written medical documentation, including instructions for administering medication as directed by the child's doctor
- Providing the school with any necessary medication in line with the procedures outlined in the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions policy
- Communicating to the school any specific control measures which can be implemented in order to prevent the child from coming into contact with the allergen
- Providing the school, in writing, with any details regarding the child's allergies
- Working alongside the school to develop an IHP to accommodate the child's needs, as well as undertaking the necessary risk assessments
- Signing their child's IHP where required
- Acting in accordance with any allergy-related requests made by the school such as not providing nut-containing items in their child's packed lunch
- Ensuring their child is aware of allergy self-management including being

- able to identify their allergy triggers and how to react
- Providing a supply of 'safe' snacks for any individual attending school events
- Raising any concerns, they may have about the management of their child's allergies with the classroom teacher
- Ensuring that any food their child brings to school is safe for them to consume
- Liaising with staff members, including those running after school clubs, regarding the appropriateness of any food or drink provided.

All pupils are responsible for: -

- Ensuring that they do not exchange food with other pupils
- Avoiding food which they know they are allergic to, as well as any food with unknown ingredients
- Being proactive in the care and management of their allergies
- Notifying a member of staff immediately in the event they believe they are having an allergic reaction, even if the cause is unknown
- Notifying a member of staff when they believe they may have come into contact with something containing an allergen
- Learning to recognise personal symptoms of an allergic reaction
- Keeping necessary medications in an agreed location which members of staff are aware of
- Developing greater independence in keeping themselves safe from allergens
- Notifying a staff member if they are being bullied or harassed as a result of their allergies.

#### **4. Food allergies**

Parents will provide the school with a written list of any foods that their child may have an adverse reaction to, as well as the necessary action to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction, such as any medication required.

Where a pupil who attends the school has a nut allergy, the school's catering service will be requested to eliminate nuts and food items with nuts as ingredients from meals as far as possible, not including foods which are labelled 'may contain traces of nuts.'

All food tables will be disinfected before and after being used.

Food items containing bread and wheat will be stored separately.

Food items containing nuts will not be served at, or brought onto, school premises.

The chosen catering service of the school is responsible for ensuring that the school's policies are adhered to at all times, including those in relation to the

preparation of food, taking into account of any allergens.

Learning activities which involve the use of food, such as cooking or food tasting activities, will be planned in accordance with pupils' IHPs, taking into account any known allergies of the pupils involved.

## **5. Animal allergies**

Pupils with known allergies to specific animals will have restricted access to those that may trigger a response.

In the event of an animal on the school site, staff members will be made aware of any pupils who this may pose a risk to and will be responsible for ensuring that the pupil does not come into contact with the specified allergen.

## **6. Seasonal allergies**

The term 'seasonal allergies' refers to common outdoor allergies including hay fever and insect bites.

Pupils with severe seasonal allergies will be provided with an indoor supervised space to spend their break and lunchtimes in, avoiding contact with outside allergens.

Staff members will be diligent in the management of wasp, bee and ant nests on school grounds, reporting any concerns to the caretaker.

The caretaker is responsible for ensuring the appropriate removal of wasp, bee and ant nests on the school premises.

Where a pupil with a known allergy is stung or bitten by an insect, medical attention will be given immediately.

## **7. Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs)(Epipens)**

Pupils who suffer from severe allergic reactions may be prescribed an AAI for use in the event of an emergency.

For pupils who have prescribed AAI devices, these are stored in a suitably safe and central location: the school office.

All staff have access to AAI devices, but these are out of reach and inaccessible to pupils – AAI devices are not locked away where access is restricted.

In line with manufacturer's guidelines, all AAI devices are stored at room temperature, protected from direct sunlight and extreme temperature.

Used AAIs must be given to paramedics upon arrival, in the event of a severe

allergic reaction in accordance with section 12 of this policy.

A sharps bin is utilised where used or expired AAls are disposed of on the school premises. Historically families have provided this resource but we are able to use the facility available in our midwifery room

Where any AAls are used, the following information will be recorded on the AAI Record: -

- where and when the reaction took place
- How much medication was given and by whom

## **8. Medical attention and required support**

Once a pupil's allergies have been identified, a meeting will be set up between the pupil's parents and any relevant staff members in which the pupil's allergies will be discussed and a plan of appropriate action/support will be developed.

All medical attention, including that in relation to administering medication, will be conducted in accordance with the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions policy.

Parents will provide the school with any necessary medication ensuring that this is clearly labelled with the pupil's name, class, expiry date and instructions for administering it.

Pupils will not be able to attend school or educational visits without any life-saving medication that they may have, such as AAls.

All members of staff involved with a pupil with a known allergy are aware of the location of emergency medication and the necessary action to take in the event of an allergic reaction.

Any specified support which the pupil may require is outlined in their IHP.

All staff members providing support to a pupil with a known medical condition, including those in relation to allergens, will be familiar with the pupil's IHP.

The SENCo is responsible for working alongside relevant staff members and parents in order to develop IHPs for pupils with allergies, ensuring that any necessary support is provided and the required documentation is completed including risk assessments being undertaken.

The Head of School has overall responsibility for ensuring that IHPs are implemented, monitored and communicated to the relevant members of the school community.



## **9. Staff training**

All first aiders are trained in how to administer an AAI and the sequence of events to follow when doing so.

In accordance with the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions policy staff members will receive appropriate training and support relevant to their level of responsibility, in order to assist pupils with managing their allergies.

The school will arrange specialist training where a pupil in the school has been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis.

Designated staff members will be taught to: -

- Recognise the range of signs and symptoms of severe allergic reactions
- Respond appropriately to a request for help from another member of staff
- Recognise when emergency action is necessary
- Administer AAIs according to the manufacturer's instructions
- Make appropriate records of allergic reactions

All staff members will: -

- Be trained to recognise the range of signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction
- Understand how quickly anaphylaxis can progress to a life-threatening reaction and that anaphylaxis can occur with prior mild-moderate symptoms
- Understand that AAIs should be administered without delay as soon as anaphylaxis occurs
- Understand how to check if a pupil is on the register of AAIs
- Understand how to access AAIs
- Understand who is the designated member of staff and how to access their help
- Understand that it may be necessary for staff members other than designated staff members to administer AAIs, eg in the event of a delay in response from the designated staff members or a life-threatening situation
- Be aware of how to administer an AAI should it be necessary
- Be aware of the provisions of this Allergen and anaphylaxis policy.
- Check expiry dates on AAIs.

## **10. In the event of a mild-moderate allergic reaction**

Mild-moderate symptoms of an allergic reaction include the following: -

- Swollen lips, face or eyes
- Itchy/tingling mouth

- Hives or itchy skin rash
- Abdominal pain or vomiting
- Sudden change in behavior

If any of the above symptoms occur in a pupil, the nearest adult will stay with the pupil and call for help from the designated staff members able to administer an AAI.

The pupil's prescribed AAI will be administered by a designated member of staff.

Where there is a delay in contacting designated staff members or where delay could cause a fatality, the nearest staff member will administer the AAI.

If necessary, other staff members may assist the designated staff members with administering AAIs.

The pupil's parents will be contacted immediately if a pupil suffers a mild-moderate allergic reaction and if an AAI has been administered.

In the event that a pupil without a prescribed AAI, or who has not been medically diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis, suffers an allergic reaction a designated staff member will contact the emergency services.

For mild-moderate allergy symptoms, the AAI will usually be sufficient for the reaction; however, the pupil will be monitored closely to ensure the reaction does not progress into anaphylaxis.

Should the reaction progress into anaphylaxis, the school will act in accordance with this policy.

The Head of School will ensure that any designated staff member required to administer an AAI has appropriate cover in place, eg if they were teaching a class at the time of the reaction.

## **11. In the event of anaphylaxis**

Anaphylaxis symptoms include the following: -

- Persistent cough
- Hoarse voice
- Difficulty swallowing or swollen tongue
- Difficult or noisy breathing
- Persistent dizziness
- Becoming pale or floppy
- Suddenly becoming sleepy, unconscious or collapsing

In the event of anaphylaxis, the nearest adult will lay the pupil flat on the floor

with their legs raised and will call for help from a designated staff member.

The designated staff member will administer an AAI to the pupil.

Where there is a delay in contacting designated staff members the nearest staff member will administer the AAI.

A copy of the register of AAIs will be held in the school office for easy access in the event of an allergic reaction.

If necessary, other staff members may assist the designated staff members with administering AAIs.

The emergency services will be contacted immediately.

A member of staff will stay with the pupil until the emergency services arrive – the pupil will remain lying flat and still.

The Head of School will be contacted immediately as well as a suitably trained individual such as a first aider.

If the pupil stops breathing, a suitably trained member of staff will administer CPR.

If there is no improvement after five minutes, a further dose of adrenaline will be administered using another AAI, if available.

In the event that a pupil without a prescribed AAI, or who has not been medically diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis, suffers an allergic reaction, a designated staff member will contact the emergency services.

A designated staff member will contact the pupil's parents as soon as possible.

Upon arrival of the emergency services, the following information will be provided: -

- Any known allergens the pupil has
- The possible causes of the reaction, eg certain food
- The time the AAI was administered – including the time of the second dose, if this was administered.

Any used AAIs will be given to the paramedics.

Staff members will ensure that the pupil is given plenty of space, moving other pupils to a different room where necessary.

Staff members will remain calm, ensuring that the pupil feels comfortable and is appropriately supported.

A member of staff will accompany the pupil to hospital in the absence of their parents.

Following the occurrence of an allergic reaction, the senior leadership team, will review the adequacy of the school's response and will consider the need for any additional support, training or other corrective action.

## **12. Monitoring and review**

The Local Academy Board Policy Committee and the Head of School are responsible for reviewing this policy annually.

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored and evaluated by all members of staff. Any concerns will be reported to the Head of School immediately.

Following each occurrence of an allergic reaction, this policy and pupils' IHPs will be updated and amended as necessary.

## Allergy Declaration Form

Name of pupil			
Date of birth		Year group	
Name of GP			
Address of GP			

Nature of allergy	
Severity of allergy	
Symptoms of an adverse reaction	
Details of required medical attention	
Instructions for administering medication	
Control measures to avoid an adverse reaction	
Expiry date of AAI	
Date that a replacement AAI is requested from parents	
Date AAI sent home to parents	
Date AAI returned to school	