

St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Proudly and joyfully, we love, live and learn as God's children.



Whole-School Allergy & Anaphylaxis Policy

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| Completed by: | S. Hussain | Date: | 20.05.26 |
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Whole-School Allergy & Anaphylaxis Policy

Effective Date: September 2026 | **Review Cycle:** Annual

1. Policy Statement

St. Mark's Catholic Primary School is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all pupils, including those with life-threatening allergies (anaphylaxis). We recognise that allergies are a growing clinical concern and that anaphylaxis is a medical emergency. This policy outlines our "Whole-School" approach to risk reduction, staff training, and emergency response.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

- **The Governing Body:** Will appoint a **Lead Allergy Governor** to oversee compliance and ensure the school has a robust risk management strategy.
- **The Headteacher/Senior Leadership Team:** Will appoint a **Designated Allergy Lead** to manage Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) and coordinate staff training.
- **All Staff:** Must complete annual anaphylaxis training and be familiar with the symptoms and emergency protocols for pupils in their care.
- **Parents/Carers:** Must provide the school with up-to-date medical information and ensure that two in-date Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs) are provided to the school if prescribed.

3. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

Every pupil with a diagnosed allergy will have a formal IHP. This document will include:

- Specific allergens (triggers).
- Signs and symptoms of a reaction for that specific child.
- Clear "Step-by-Step" emergency instructions.
- Storage location of the child's medication.
- A recent photograph of the child.

4. Medication & Storage

- **Prescribed AAIs:** Must be stored in a central, accessible, and unlocked location (e.g., Medical Room or School Office).
- **Spare/Statutory AAIs:** Under Benedict's Law, the school will maintain a supply of "spare" AAIs (not assigned to a specific child) for use in emergencies.

when a child's own device fails or for children with no previous history of allergy who experience their first reaction.

- **Expiry Tracking:** The Designated Allergy Lead will check expiry dates monthly and notify parents at least one month before a device expires.

5. Risk Reduction Measures

The school will implement the following "Allergy Aware" protocols:

- **Catering:** The kitchen manager will maintain an allergen matrix for all meals. "Grab and Go" items will be clearly labelled with the 14 regulated allergens.
- **Curriculum:** class teachers must risk-assess every lesson involving food or chemicals.
- **The "No-Sharing" Rule:** A strict policy against pupils sharing food or drinks.
- **Handwashing:** Mandatory handwashing for all pupils before and after lunch to prevent cross-contamination.

6. Emergency Response Protocol

In the event of a suspected anaphylactic reaction:

1. **Stay with the child:** Never leave the pupil alone or ask them to walk to the medical room.
2. **Call for Help:** Alert the designated first aider and the Allergy Lead.
3. **Positioning:** Keep the child lying flat with legs raised (unless they are struggling to breathe, in which case sit them up slightly). **Do not stand them up.**
4. **Administer AAI:** Follow the instructions on the child's specific device (EpiPen, Text, or Emerade) immediately.
5. **Call 999:** State "ANAPHYLAXIS" clearly to the operator.
6. **Second Dose:** If there is no improvement after 5 minutes, administer a second AAI in the opposite thigh.

7. Post-Incident Review

Following any allergic reaction, the school will conduct a "Cold Debrief" to evaluate the response, update the risk assessment, and provide emotional support to the staff and pupils involved.