



ALLERGY SAFETY POLICY

Allergy Safety Policy

Policy Owner: Headteacher

Responsible Lead: Allergy Safety Lead

Approved By: Governing Body

Review Frequency: Annual

Related Policies

- Medical Needs Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Data Protection Policy

1. Purpose and Scope

Jubilee Primary School is committed to keeping children with allergies safe and ensuring that they take a full part in every aspect of school life. Being kept safe should never mean being left out.

Allergy is common, serious and potentially life-threatening. On average two or three children in every classroom in the UK have asthma, and food allergy is similarly widespread. Around one in five children who have a severe allergic reaction at school have no previous diagnosis, so our arrangements are designed to protect every child on site, not only those already known to us.

This policy sets out:

- How we identify children, young people, staff and visitors with allergy.
- How we minimise the risk of exposure to known allergens.
- How staff are trained in allergy awareness and emergency response.
- How children have access to their prescribed adrenaline devices, alongside spare devices held by school.
- How children with allergy participate in visits, trips and all other activities.
- How specific arrangements are captured through Individual Healthcare Plans.
- How we promote the wellbeing and inclusion of children with allergy.
- How we record, report and learn from serious incidents and near misses.

It applies to all staff, governors, volunteers, supply and agency staff, contractors working in pupil-facing roles, and to all school activities including breakfast club, after-school clubs, trips and residential visits.

Our Nursery follows this policy alongside the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework.

2. Legal Framework

This policy is written with regard to the Department for Education statutory guidance *Allergy Safety in Schools* (July 2026), issued under Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 as amended by Section 34 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026.

It also reflects:

- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions at School (DfE statutory guidance).
- The Equality Act 2010.
- Sections 20 and 175 of the Education Act 2002 and *Keeping Children Safe in Education*.
- Section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.
- The Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2017.
- The Human Medicines Regulations 2012 (as amended).
- The Food Information Regulations 2014, including Natasha's Law.
- The Requirements for School Food Regulations 2014.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body

- Ensures the school has an Allergy Safety Policy, that it is published and kept under review at least annually.
- Ensures allergy-related risk is recorded on the school risk register and actively managed.
- Receives reports of serious incidents and near misses and assurance that lessons have been learned.

Headteacher

- Holds overall accountability for implementation of this policy.
- Decides, in discussion with parents and relevant healthcare professionals, whether a child requires an Individual Healthcare Plan or can be supported through the school's general medical conditions arrangements.
- Signs requests to purchase spare adrenaline auto-injectors from a pharmaceutical supplier.

Allergy Safety Lead

- Drives day-to-day implementation of this policy and leads its annual review.
- Maintains the school's record of children, staff and regular visitors with known allergy.
- Oversees the drafting, review and sharing of Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Ensures all staff receive allergy awareness training, including at induction and for supply and cover staff.
- Oversees the stock, storage, expiry checking and replacement of spare adrenaline devices and emergency inhalers.
- Ensures serious incidents and near misses are recorded, reported and reviewed.

Responsibility for allergy safety is not delegated to the catering manager.

All Staff

- Complete annual allergy awareness training and understand this policy.
- Know which children in their care have a known allergy, what their allergens are and where their medication and Allergy Action Plan are kept.
- Consider allergen risk when planning activities.
- Recognise the signs of an allergic reaction and anaphylaxis.
- Act immediately in an emergency.
- Report any reaction or near miss, however minor.

Catering Staff

- Hold current allergen information for every child with a recorded allergy before serving any meal.
- Provide accurate allergen information for all food served.
- Follow procedures to prevent cross-contamination.
- Meet parents on request to discuss allergen-safe meal provision.

Parents and Carers

- Tell the school about any allergy at the earliest opportunity and inform us promptly of any change.
- Provide in-date, clearly labelled medication, including two adrenaline devices where prescribed.
- Participate in drawing up and reviewing Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Share relevant Allergy Action Plans and medical advice.
- Report reactions or near misses that occur outside school.

Children

Children are supported to understand their allergy, speak up if they feel unwell and take increasing responsibility for managing their allergy as they grow older. All children are taught not to share or swap food.

4. Recognising an Allergic Reaction

Allergic reactions are unpredictable. Most are not severe and can be treated with an oral antihistamine. However, a reaction that begins mildly can progress to anaphylaxis.

Mild to Moderate Reaction

- Swollen lips, face or eyes
- Itchy or tingling mouth
- Mild throat tightness
- Hives or itchy rash
- Abdominal pain or vomiting

- Sudden change in behaviour

Signs of Anaphylaxis

Airway

- Swelling of the throat or tongue
- Tightening in the throat
- Hoarse voice
- Difficulty swallowing

Breathing

- Sudden wheeze
- Difficulty breathing
- Persistent cough
- Noisy breathing

Circulation

- Dizziness
- Feeling faint
- Sudden sleepiness
- Confusion
- Pale, clammy skin
- Loss of consciousness

Anaphylaxis can occur without a rash or any other mild sign. If in doubt, treat as anaphylaxis and give adrenaline.

Any child known to have both asthma and food allergy who develops sudden breathing difficulty should be treated as having anaphylaxis.

5. Emergency Response

In the Event of Anaphylaxis

1. Lay the child flat with their legs raised.
2. Send for help and the nearest adrenaline device.
3. Give adrenaline immediately.
4. Dial 999 and state clearly that this is anaphylaxis.
5. Give a second dose after five minutes if there is no improvement.

6. Follow the child's Allergy Action Plan.
7. Stay with the child, contact parents and record the incident.

For a mild or moderate reaction:

- Give an oral antihistamine where available and authorised.
- Telephone parents.
- Do not leave the child unattended.
- Observe the child for at least 60 minutes.

6. Identifying Children with Allergy

We ask about allergy on admission and at the start of each academic year.

The Allergy Safety Lead maintains a central record of all individuals with known allergy, their known allergens, whether they carry medication and whether they have an Individual Healthcare Plan or Allergy Action Plan. This record is held on Arbor and is available to staff who require access in order to fulfil their safeguarding and allergy management responsibilities.

Lists of children with known allergy, including current photographs and allergens, are displayed in staff-only areas where food is prepared or handled.

A child does not need a formal diagnosis for us to act. Where allergy is suspected, arrangements will be based on the best assessment of risk.

7. Individual Healthcare Plans

A child has an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) where their allergy has a functional impact on them in school, where they are at risk of harm and where arrangements beyond standard provision are required.

Each IHP records:

- Child details and emergency contacts.
- Known allergens.
- Medication and storage arrangements.
- Impact on learning and wellbeing.
- School support arrangements.
- Emergency procedures.
- Trip and visit arrangements.
- Permissions relating to medication.
- Review dates.

IHPs are reviewed:

- At least annually.
- Following any incident or near miss.
- Following updated medical advice.
- At points of transition.

8. Allergy Awareness Training

All staff receive allergy awareness training at least annually.

Training covers:

- Allergy awareness.
- Risk reduction.
- Recognition of reactions.
- Recognition of anaphylaxis.
- Administration of emergency medication.
- Use of Allergy Action Plans.
- Reporting procedures.
- Emotional wellbeing and inclusion.

New staff receive training through induction. Supply staff receive relevant allergy information on arrival.

9. Minimising the Risk of Exposure

Our Approach: Allergy Aware, Not Nut Free

Jubilee Primary School describes itself as an allergy-aware school. We do not describe ourselves as nut free.

We ask families not to send:

- Nuts or foods containing nuts.
- Pesto.
- Sesame or sesame-containing products, including hummus, tahini and falafel.

These requests do not replace vigilance or emergency response arrangements.

Food Provided by the School

- Catering staff hold current allergen information for every child with a recorded allergy.
- At least two independent methods are used to identify children with allergy at mealtimes.
- Children with allergy eat alongside their peers.

- Meals for children with allergy are prepared first, using measures to prevent cross-contamination.
- Menu substitutions continue to meet allergen requirements.
- Children entitled to free school meals receive reasonable adjustments where required.
- Allergen information is clear, accurate and readily available.

Identification of Children with Allergies at Mealtimes

At least two identification checks will be used before providing food to a child with a known allergy to ensure that every child receives a safe meal.

As part of Jubilee Primary School's allergy management procedures, children with a known food allergy are issued with a red lanyard for use in the dining hall to support safe identification during meal service.

The purpose of the lanyard is to provide an immediate visual reminder to dining hall staff that the child has a recorded allergy and requires additional checks before being served food.

The use of a red lanyard is only one part of the school's allergy management procedures and must never be relied upon as the sole means of identification.

In addition:

- Catering staff will maintain an up-to-date record of pupils with allergies, including photographs and details of their allergens.
- Before serving a meal, catering staff will cross-check the child's identity against the allergy records and photographs held in the kitchen or serving area.
- Kitchen staff will confirm that the meal presented matches the child's recorded dietary requirements and allergens before it is served.
- Any child wearing a red lanyard will be supported to access meals safely and discreetly, without unnecessary segregation from their peers.
- Photographs and allergy information will be displayed and stored in accordance with data protection requirements and will only be accessible to staff who need the information to keep children safe.

Food Brought in from Home

Packed lunches are governed by the school's Healthy Eating Policy published on the school website, which applies to all packed lunches eaten in school and on school trips. To support the safety and inclusion of pupils with allergies, families are asked not to send nuts or foods containing nuts, including products such as peanut butter, pesto containing pine nuts or cashew nuts and chocolate spread containing nuts. Families are also asked not to send sesame or sesame-containing products, including hummus, tahini, falafel and seeded breads. The Healthy Eating Policy also requires that children do not share or swap food items. Parents and carers should contact the school if their child requires a specific dietary arrangement in their packed lunch.

Jubilee Primary School is an allergy-aware school and cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment. Measures relating to food brought from home are intended to reduce risk and support the safe participation of pupils with allergies.

Where a pupil has a severe allergy, the Allergy Safety Lead will consider, on the basis of a risk assessment and taking account of available medical advice, whether additional measures relating to food brought from home are necessary. Any such measures will be proportionate to the identified risk, communicated to families and kept under regular review. References to additional allergen-related measures will identify the allergen concerned but will not identify any individual child. Specific arrangements for individual pupils will be recorded within their Individual Healthcare Plan.

This policy adds the following allergy safety expectations:

- Lunch boxes and food containers should be clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Food brought from home should not be provided for sharing with other children.
- Staff supervising lunch reinforce the no-sharing and no-swapping rule and understand that it is an important allergy safety measure.
- Where the contents of food items cannot be readily identified, staff will exercise appropriate caution and seek clarification where necessary.
- Children with packed lunches will eat alongside children having a school meal wherever reasonably practicable.
- When the Healthy Eating Policy and this policy are reviewed, they will be checked together to ensure they remain consistent.

Classroom Activities & Birthdays

Staff will consider allergen risks when planning celebrations, special events and other activities where food may be present.

Examples include:

- Food packaging used in craft activities.
- Play dough and modelling materials.
- Certain glues.
- Bird feed.
- Cooking activities.
- Science investigations.
- Gardening activities.
- Cultural celebrations.

Alternative materials will be provided where needed to ensure participation.

We do not have birthday cakes, sweets or shared food for birthdays at Jubilee. Food brought in for a whole class is a recognised source of accidental exposure, because ingredients are frequently unknown and children share without thinking.

Airborne and Contact Allergens

Reasonable adjustments are made for children with airborne or contact allergies and recorded within their IHP.

This includes:

- Latex awareness.

- Animal contact considerations.
- Adaptations to PE and outdoor learning.
- Good ventilation and indoor air quality management.

10. Adrenaline Devices and Emergency Inhalers

Prescribed Devices

- Children prescribed adrenaline should have two devices available.
- Medication is stored in accessible locations.
- Allergy Action Plans are kept with medication.
- Devices are checked regularly for expiry.

Spare Adrenaline Devices

The school stocks spare adrenaline auto-injectors for emergency use.

- Devices are clearly identified as school stock.
- Kits are stored in accessible locations.
- Devices are checked regularly and replaced before expiry.
- Spare devices may be used for any child, staff member or visitor showing signs of anaphylaxis.

Emergency Inhalers

The school maintains emergency salbutamol inhalers and spacers in accordance with legislation.

11. Trips, Visits and Extended Provision

Children with allergy take part fully in:

- Educational visits.
- Residential visits.
- Breakfast club.
- After-school clubs.

Risk assessments are completed where required and emergency medication accompanies the child.

Parents will not be required to attend activities to support participation.

12. Wellbeing, Inclusion and Bullying

Jubilee Primary School recognises that allergy can cause anxiety for children and families.

We will:

- Provide reassurance and support.
- Communicate regularly with families.
- Involve children and families in reviewing arrangements.
- Promote awareness among pupils and staff.

Allergy-related bullying is treated as seriously as any other form of bullying and managed under the school's Anti-Bullying Policy.

13. Unacceptable Practice

The following are not acceptable at Jubilee Primary School:

- Preventing access to medication.
- Ignoring the views of pupils or parents.
- Ignoring medical advice.
- Applying the same arrangements to every child regardless of need.
- Preventing participation in normal school activities.
- Sending children to seek help unaccompanied during an allergic emergency.
- Requiring parents to attend school routinely to administer medication.
- Creating unnecessary barriers to learning and inclusion.

14. Serious Incidents and Near Misses

A serious incident includes any allergic reaction requiring emergency medication or medical treatment. A near miss includes occasions where exposure could have occurred but did not result in harm. All incidents and near misses are recorded on the school's Serious Incident Log and reported to the Allergy Safety Lead.

The school will:

- Record all incidents and near misses.
- Inform parents on the same day.
- Investigate incidents.
- Review arrangements and IHPs where necessary.
- Support affected children, families and staff.

Food-related safety incidents will be reported to the relevant local authority environmental health team where required.

15. Information Sharing

Information about a child's allergy is special category health data under UK GDPR.

Information will:

- Be shared only where necessary.
- Be accessible to relevant staff.
- Be stored securely.
- Be managed in accordance with the school's Data Protection Policy.

16. Staff and Visitors with Allergy

This policy applies equally to adults.

Reasonable arrangements will be made for staff, volunteers and visitors with allergies.

School spare adrenaline devices may be used for any adult showing signs of anaphylaxis whilst on site.

17. Awareness, Publication and Review

- This policy is published on the school website.
- It is available in hard copy on request.
- It is shared with parents and staff.
- Allergy awareness is included within staff induction and annual training.
- Children receive age-appropriate education about allergy awareness and safety.
- The policy is reviewed annually by the Allergy Safety Lead and approved by the Governing Body.
- The policy will be reviewed earlier following any serious incident, near miss or change in legislation or guidance.

Policy Control

School: Jubilee Primary School

Policy Owner: Headteacher

Lead Officer: Allergy Safety Lead (SLT)

Approved By: Governing Body

Approval Date: _____

Review Date: _____

Review Frequency: Annual