



ST.MARY'S RC
PRIMARY SCHOOL

WE PRAY, PLAY & RESPECT ALL

ALLERGY SAFETY POLICY

1. Purpose

The school is committed to supporting pupils with allergies safely and inclusively, reducing avoidable exposure to allergens and ensuring a prompt and effective response to allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis.

This policy has regard to the statutory Allergy Safety in Schools guidance and forms part of the school's arrangements for supporting pupils with medical conditions. It should be read alongside the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions, First Aid, Safeguarding and Educational Visits policies.

2. Responsibilities and Identification

- The Governing Body will ensure that the school has an allergy safety policy, reviews it at least annually, publicises it appropriately and ensures that statutory allergy safety arrangements are implemented.
- The Headteacher will ensure that responsibilities are allocated, staff receive appropriate allergy awareness training and suitable emergency arrangements are in place.
- Parents/carers should inform the school of known or suspected allergies and provide current medical information, prescribed medication and emergency plans.
- The school will maintain appropriate records of pupils with allergies and ensure relevant staff have access to the information they need while protecting confidentiality.

3. Individual Healthcare Plans

The school will identify pupils whose allergy requires an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP). Plans will be developed with parents/carers, the pupil where appropriate, healthcare professionals and relevant staff, and will include allergens, signs and symptoms, risk-reduction measures, medicines and emergency response.

IHPs will be reviewed at least annually and whenever the pupil's needs or circumstances change.

4. Reducing Allergy Risk

- The school will take reasonable and proportionate steps to reduce avoidable exposure to known allergens.
- Risk-reduction measures will reflect the individual pupil, the activity and the environment rather than relying on blanket assurances that an environment is completely allergen-free.
- Food preparation, catering, classroom activities, celebrations, trips and off-site activities will take known allergies into account.
- Staff will encourage age-appropriate allergy awareness and respectful behaviour among pupils, including not sharing food where this could create a risk.

5. Staff Training

All staff will receive allergy awareness training appropriate to their role. Staff with specific responsibilities for pupils at risk of anaphylaxis will receive additional training so that they are confident and competent to recognise symptoms and respond in an emergency, including use of adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs).

Training and relevant competency records will be maintained and refreshed in accordance with statutory guidance and school arrangements.

6. Adrenaline Auto-Injectors and Emergency Arrangements

- Pupils' prescribed AAIs will be stored so that they are readily accessible in an emergency, in accordance with the pupil's IHP and age/competence.
- The school will maintain any required or authorised spare AAIs in accordance with current statutory requirements and guidance.
- Suspected anaphylaxis is a medical emergency. Staff will follow the pupil's emergency plan where available, administer an AAI without delay where indicated and call 999, stating that anaphylaxis is suspected.
- Emergency medication and relevant information will accompany pupils on educational visits and off-site activities.

7. Incidents and Near Misses

Serious allergic incidents and relevant near misses will be recorded, reported and reviewed in accordance with statutory guidance and school procedures. The school will consider what can be learned and whether risk-reduction measures, training or an IHP need to change.

8. Inclusion

Pupils with allergies will not be unnecessarily excluded from curriculum activities, school meals, celebrations, trips or wider school life. Appropriate adjustments and risk-reduction measures will be considered so that pupils can participate safely.

9. Communication and Review

This policy will be made known within the school and to parents/carers, brought to the attention of pupils and all people who work at the school at least annually in an age- and role-appropriate way, and published on the school website.

The Governing Body will review this policy at least annually and make changes where appropriate. The next scheduled review is September 2027.

Revised and adopted by the Governing Body

Date: September 2026

Review Date: September 2027