Lingfield Education Trust
Allergen and Anaphylaxis

Policy Version Control	
Policy type	Academy Trust
Policy prepared by (name and designation)	Trust Leads Karen Edmenson Head Teacher
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Allergy Safety Policy – School Level

Person responsible for this policy & it's implementation	Karen Edmenson
Named SLT member	Karen Edmenson
Named LGB member	Joanne Tickle
Purpose	To minimise the risk of any individual suffering an allergic reaction whilst at school or attending any school related activity. To ensure staff are properly prepared to recognise and manage allergic reactions should they arise.
Links with other policies	Safeguarding Behaviour Anti-bullying Health and Safety First Aid Supporting children at school with medical conditions

Introduction and Core Principles

In line with Benedict's Law, we are committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment for all children, young people, staff, and visitors with allergies. Recognising the serious and potentially life-threatening risk posed by anaphylaxis, this dedicated policy establishes robust risk-mitigation measures and emergency response protocols.

Allergy is a spectrum of different allergic diseases. Reactions occur when a susceptible person is exposed to something (an "allergen") they are allergic to. Asthma, food allergy, eczema and seasonal rhinitis (hay fever) are all forms of allergy.

Anaphylactic reactions usually begin within minutes of being in contact with the allergen i.e. eating a trigger food, though can occur several hours later (i.e. allergy to Mammalian meat). Anaphylaxis involves difficulty in breathing and affects the heart rhythm. In extreme cases there could be a dramatic fall in blood pressure leading to collapse.

Once started, anaphylaxis reactions progress quickly. Investigations into fatal anaphylaxis show that there is only a 20-30-minute window of opportunity during which steps can be taken to prevent death – therefore giving emergency adrenaline **immediately** and calling Emergency Services (999) is crucial. **Anaphylaxis always requires an emergency response.**

Anaphylaxis can occur without any other signs (such as a skin rash) being present. **Always consider anaphylaxis in someone with a known food allergy who has sudden difficulty in breathing.** Giving adrenaline in this context is very safe and may be lifesaving.

The most common causes of "whole body" allergic reactions – including anaphylaxis – are:

- foods (e.g. peanuts, tree nuts, cow's milk/dairy foods, egg, wheat, fish/shellfish and sesame);

- insect stings (e.g. bee, wasp);
- medication (e.g. antibiotics, pain medicines such as ibuprofen);
- latex (e.g. rubber gloves, balloons, swimming caps).

Even for food allergy, the vast majority of anaphylaxis reactions require the person to have eaten the food, although less serious allergic reactions can happen through skin or other contact. Anaphylaxis reactions due to skin contact are very rare. Pupils who have a skin reaction need monitoring for at least an hour.

HHA has a whole school awareness approach because it ensures all staff and pupils are aware of what allergies are, the importance of
avoiding individual allergens, the signs & symptoms, how to deal with allergic reactions and to ensure procedures are in place to minimise risk of exposure. HHA is a nut-free school.

Coeliac disease and food intolerance can present symptoms which are similar to those of food allergy; it is important that Coeliac disease and food intolerance is be managed through dietary avoidance, but these conditions do not pose a risk of anaphylaxis and so they are not within this allergy safety policy.

Eczema, asthma and allergies sometimes occur together – known as the atopic triad. It is important that these are managed well to keep the individual healthy. Asthma training is needed by all staff and an individual's asthma care plan needs to be included with their individual healthcare plan. These conditions are not included in this allergy safety policy.

HHA staff understand that severe allergies are included in the Equality Act, 2010. The act considers a person disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term negative effect on their ability to carry out normal daily activities. Seasonal rhinitis (such as hay fever) is explicitly excluded from the definition of disability, unless it aggravates the effect of another health condition.

Emergency Treatment and Management of Anaphylaxis

What to look for:

Symptoms usually come quickly, within minutes of exposure to the allergen.

Mild to moderate allergic reaction symptoms may include:
- a red raised rash (known as hives or urticaria) anywhere on the body
- a tingling or itchy feeling in the mouth
- swelling of lips, face or eyes
- stomach pain or vomiting
- mild throat tightness
- sudden change in behaviour

These symptoms are treated with antihistamines.

More serious symptoms are often referred to as the ABC symptoms and can include:
- **AIRWAY** - swelling in the throat, tongue or upper airways (tightening of the throat, hoarse voice, difficulty swallowing).
- **BREATHING** - sudden onset wheezing, breathing difficulty, noisy breathing, persistent cough.
- **CIRCULATION** - dizziness, feeling faint, sudden sleepiness, tiredness, confusion, pale clammy skin, loss of consciousness.

The term for this more serious reaction is anaphylaxis. In extreme cases, there could be a dramatic fall in blood pressure. The person may become weak and floppy and may have a

sense of something terrible happening. This may lead to collapse and unconsciousness and, on rare occasions, can be fatal.

As soon as anaphylaxis is suspected, adrenaline must be administered without delay.
Action:

- Keep the individual where they are, call for help and do not leave them unattended.
- **LIE INIDVIDUAL FLAT WITH LEGS RAISED** – they can be propped up if struggling to breathe but this should be for as short a time as possible.
- **USE ADRENALINE DEVICE WITHOUT DELAY** and note the time given. AAIs should be given into the muscle in the outer thigh or nasal into the nostril. Specific instructions vary by brand – always follow the instructions on the device.
- CALL **999** and state **ANAPHYLAXIS (ana-fil-axis).**
- If no improvement after 5 minutes, administer second adrenaline device
- If no signs of life commence CPR.
- Call parent/carer as soon as possible.

Whilst you are waiting for the ambulance, keep the individual where they are. Do not stand them up, or sit them in a chair, even if they are feeling better. This could lower their blood pressure drastically, causing their heart to stop.

All individuals must go to hospital for observation after anaphylaxis even if they appear to have recovered as a reaction can recur after treatment.

Minimising Risk and Exposure to Allergens

Minimising risk and the exposure to allergens is central to ensuring that individuals with allergies are safe from harm. Even a small amount of allergen can cause a reaction. Any food can cause a reaction with serious consequences for the individual and HHA will only eliminate a food following a risk assessment supported by medical advice when necessary. Where a food is restricted, this will be to the smallest area for the time necessary; for example, the cooking room for the duration of the lesson when the pupil with allergy is cooking. Blanket bans, especially to nuts, create a false sense of security. Whilst there are 14 key food allergens that cause over 90% of reactions, any food can cause a reaction.

HHA is allergy aware ensuring that the staff and pupils are actively aware of the risk posed by allergens, take steps to minimise the risk of exposure and have robust emergency response plans in place for individual staff and children as appropriate.

HHA completes a school wide allergy risk assessment that seeks to minimise the risks of exposure to known allergens. The risk assessment will include:

- Identifying the food used within the curriculum and making adaptions to remove allergens that pose a risk for the whole group not just the pupil who has the allergy.
- Conducting specific risk assessments to manage the risks of exposure to allergens in individuals when planning external visits or trips
- Identify measures to manage risks of exposure to a food allergen through food brought in by others (for example, parents, pupils, staff).
- Identify measures to manage the risks of exposure to a food allergen through food provided by the school, college or setting
- Putting in reasonable measures to manage the risk of individuals being exposed to allergens where they have a known allergy to airborne or contact allergens
- Identifying non-food allergens within the environment and making adaptions to remove/reduce allergens that pose a risk, eg visiting animals to school

HHA will ensure that allergy is included in all school risk assessments to identify risks and plan control measures to minimise the risk of exposure.

HHA will ensure that the risk of exposure is minimised by

- All school staff allergy training every year
- Educating pupils through awareness assemblies and within PSHE
- Educating parents/carers and the wider school community as required
- Communicating with all visitors, temporary staff and cover staff that they will be teaching a pupil with an allergy and ensuring that the member of staff has been trained in allergy and anaphylaxis emergency response or ensure that a member of school staff is present within the classroom
- Working closely with parents/carers and health professionals to understand the pupils allergy
- Monitoring this policy to ensure that the agreed practices are implemented
- Establishing and maintaining high hygiene standards amongst staff, pupils and visitors

Food Provision and Catering:

HHA will manage the risk of food allergy and provide clear information on allergens in food provided by:

- Ensure the contract with the school catering company is compliant with the Food Standards Authority allergen management regulations
- Ensuring school caterers provide information on food allergens to parents/carers and have this available
- Provide pupils allergen information to the caterers in a timely manner to ensure that pupils can eat safely
- Enabling parents/carers to liaise with the kitchen team / cook
- Identify pupils with allergies at point of service by their photo / care plan, confidentially displayed in the kitchen. Teaching staff have copied of individual health care plans, which are also held on ARBOR and CPOMS.
- Ensure that food is always labelled as unlabelled food poses a potentially greater risk of allergen exposure than packaged food with precautionary ("may contain") labelling suggesting a risk of contamination with allergen. This applies to foods used within the classroom curriculum (e.g. cooking) as well that from the school kitchen or canteen.
- Teach pupils not to food share, trade food or share utensils or food containers with the reasons why

When staff provide food for the pupils, they receive additional training to ensure they understand how to read labels for food allergens and how to prevent cross-contamination during the handling, preparation and serving of food.

Where food is not directly provided by the school (for example, treats brought in to celebrate birthdays or other special occasions), parent/carer permission will be sought in advance to ensure the inclusion and safety of all pupils, particularly those with allergies, intolerances or dietary requirements. To minimise risk, the school will only permit pre-packaged, shop-bought items with clearly labelled ingredients and allergen information. Homemade food items will not be shared with pupils. Any food brought into school must be approved by staff before being distributed. At the start of each academic year, parents/carers will be asked to complete a consent form indicating whether they are happy for their child to receive occasional treats provided by other families. This will also enable the school to maintain up-to-date information regarding allergies, dietary requirements, religious considerations and food preferences.

Where consent has not been provided, or where a pupil has specific dietary requirements, reasonable alternative arrangements will be made to ensure the child remains fully included in celebrations. Staff will always check allergen information and dietary needs before food is distributed and reserve the right to refuse any item that does not meet the school's safety requirements.

These procedures apply to school led breakfast and after school provision. Where this is provided by a third party, HHA, ensures that this policy is shared and the third-party provider meets the same procedures.

Medication and Adrenaline Devices (ADs)

People at risk of anaphylaxis are prescribed two adrenaline devices which they should have accessible to them at all times. This includes the journey to and from;

- school
- the classroom
- lunch area
- playground
- sports field
- when on visits or trips

Serious anaphylaxis is a time critical situation; delays in administering adrenaline have been associated with fatal reactions. An adrenaline device needs to be administered within 5 minutes so if the adrenaline device cannot be with them in the classroom, the adrenaline device should be stored in an appropriate central location that is unlocked and accessible at all times (including during wrap around care).

Adrenaline devices must be stored at room temperature (in line with manufacturer's guidelines) and not be exposed to extremes of heat. They should not be refrigerated or left in direct sunlight.

Spare Adrenaline Devices
The Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2017 permit "spare" adrenaline devices to be used for the purpose of saving a life. This might be, for example, a child presenting for the first time with anaphylaxis due to an undiagnosed allergy.

HHA holds spare adrenaline devices for use in emergency situations. These are not a replacement for a pupil's own adrenaline device. Pupils prescribed adrenaline are expected to have their own adrenaline devices with them at school for use in an emergency.

School type	***AAI for children under age 6 years*** *(150 micrograms)* *e.g. EpiPen Junior, Jext 150*	***AAI for individuals over 6 years of age*** *(300 micrograms)* *e.g. EpiPen, Jext 300*
Primary school	*One pair of "spare" devices*	*One pair of "spare" devices*

HHA holds:
2 x JEXT DEVICES
1 X 300mg
1 X 150mg

These are located in:
Main School Office

They are stored above the first aid box in the main office and labelled 'Emergency Anaphylaxis Kit'

The Allergy Lead is responsible for checking that adrenaline devices are in date and remain clear (not cloudy) on a monthly basis. They will secure replacements one month before the current adrenaline device expires.

Adrenaline devices that are used will be disposed of in a sharps box or given to the paramedic. Adrenaline devices that are out of date or where the adrenaline has degraded will be taken to a pharmacy to be disposed of. In order to receive a sharps box the school should register with the Local Authority which will be collected by them.

In the event of anaphylactic reaction:

- Adrenaline should be administered as soon as possible, within five minutes. **Do not wait** to contact the emergency services before administering adrenaline.
- The child, young person or individual should not be moved. Adrenaline devices should be brought to them (whether their own prescribed ADs or "spare" ADs).
- If the child, young person or individual **has their own prescribed adrenaline devices**, these should be used in the first instance.
- If the child, young person or individual **does not have prescribed adrenaline devices**, "spare" adrenaline devices can be used.
- If the child, young person or individual's **prescribed adrenaline devices are not available or misfire**, "spare" adrenaline devices can be used.
- If the individual has serious allergy and asthma and there is any doubt if they are presenting with anaphylaxis or having an asthma attack always administer the adrenaline first.

The Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2017 do not require consent to have been obtained for "spare" adrenaline devices to be used. It can be good practice for the school to obtain advance consent from parents or the young person for "spare" adrenaline devices to be used, so that in an emergency, consent can be assumed to be in place. However, in an emergency situation anyone may take reasonable action to save a life without checking whether prior consent has been given.

Pupil self-management:

Depending on their level of understanding and competence, pupils will be encouraged to take responsibility for and to always carry their own two adrenaline devices on them in a suitable bag/container. This should be written into their Individual Healthcare Plan.

Older pupils should, whenever possible, assume responsibility for their emergency kit under the guidance of their parents. However, symptoms of anaphylaxis can come on **very suddenly**, so school staff need to be prepared to administer medication if the young person cannot.

Staff Training and Emergency Response

All staff, including teaching staff, support staff, catering staff and others who may oversee pupils including at breakfast or after school clubs will be trained in allergy awareness and emergency response. The school is responsible for ensuring that supply, cover, coaching, peripatetic staff have received allergy awareness training.

Training can be online or face to face. The content needs to include:

- Allergy awareness, the risks it poses, how allergic reactions occur and how to manage them
- Allergy includes multiple co-existing conditions: asthma, eczema, hay-fever
- Understand the difference between food allergy, intolerance and coeliac disease
- That a pupil can be allergic to any food, not just the top 14 allergens
- Know the symptoms of allergic reactions and how to treat
- Know the symptoms of anaphylaxis and how to treat
- How to locate and administer adrenaline or an asthma inhaler

- All adrenaline devices should be used to train with as the pupil may have different ones to the spare adrenaline – this can be mitigated by the school ordering the same type of device as the spare AAI
- How to report an allergic reaction including
- Mild to moderate
- Anaphylaxis
- Near miss/incident
- Understand their responsibilities in risk reduction to ensure that pupils prevented from coming into contact with their allergens
- Understand the impact that allergy can have on a pupil's wellbeing
- Understand the school's allergy safety policy and
- How to check if a pupil is on the record of those with a known allergy
- How to use an allergy or asthma action plan

Emergency preparedness

HHA will annually hold a practice response to anaphylaxis, review how the practice went and update policy and procedures.
Throughout the year staff will be reminded of key aspects of the policy such as:

- how to find out who has an allergy
- the storage of spare adrenaline
- practice with adrenaline trainer devices

HHA will communicate key messages regarding risk reduction leading up to festivals, trips and end of term celebrations.
During fire drills and lockdown practices, Handale Primary School will ensure that a pupils adrenaline device is with them. Should a real evacuation happen, the pupil may have to go home without adrenaline if this has not been taken out during a fire evacuation.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Allergy lead and governing body:
The governing body, Academy Trust and proprietors Handale Primary School are responsible for ensuring that the school's policy sets out the arrangements to reduce the risk of individuals coming into contact with their known allergens and sets out the emergency response plan for cases of anaphylaxis. The governing body monitor this policy with it being a standing agenda item at meetings. Handale Primary School have a named governor who works closely with the allergy lead and reports to the meetings.

HHA includes the risks pertaining to pupils and staff with allergy on the school's risk register.

HHA has a named member of the senior leadership team who is responsible for allergy safety which includes driving the implementation of the allergy safety policy and contributing to the review of the policy.

The allergy lead is responsible for:

- systems to collect allergy information during the enrolment process, ensuring that this information is shared with catering. Outside of the normal admission point, ensures that information is shared staff and catering teams as soon as possible but within two weeks of the pupil starting
- holding a register of pupils and staff with allergies including whether they hold adrenaline and whether they have an allergy action plan
- ensures that systems are robust for the identification of pupils at mealtimes
- Communication about:

    - the policy
    - the pupils who are on the register of those with allergies
    - the importance of recording and reporting near misses and incidents
- communication with:
    - governors to provide updates about the policy implementation
    - Health and Safety and Designated Safeguarding Leads to keep allergy safety as part of their roles
    - Outside agencies such as Health and Safety Executive (HSE) if a report under RIDDOR is needed
    - Caterer; the procedures in the kitchen and the procedures for ensuring that the pupils with allergies are provided with a safe meal
    - Parents/carers to enable them to input into IHPs (Individual Healthcare Plans) and to request allergy action plans when appropriate
    - Pupils to develop an understanding of allergy through information assemblies and workshops, participating in awareness days and weeks
- spare adrenaline devices and making sure these are checked and in date, with replacements being secured before the current ones expire
- that IHPs are created and communicated
- Training
    - ensuring that all staff annual training and that allergy is included in induction even for short term members of staff.
    - ensures that all staff have the opportunity to practice with trainer adrenaline devices at least annually but ideally a few times a year.

The school may also source external expertise from the school nurse or medical professionals if this is available.

All Staff:

Responsible for:

- understanding their role in implementing this policy, recognising signs of allergic reactions, and acting swiftly in an emergency
- supporting the creation of the pupils IHP
- implementing the pupils IHP
- Creating an inclusive curriculum
- Curriculum adaptation to minimise risks
- Completing risk assessments for, curriculum activities involving food, trips and visits including sporting events
- Building proactive relationships with parents/carers
- Reporting near misses and incidents

Parents:

Responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy
- Providing school with the information they need to create individual health care plans
- Updating school when reactions happen outside of school or any changes to the pupil's allergy and its management.
- Ensuring that the pupil always has in date medication with them at school

Identification of Individuals with Allergies

Admissions Data Collection: Handale Primary School collects detailed medical information from parents/carers regarding known allergies, dietary restrictions, and treatment histories prior to admission. This forms part of the admissions process. An additional letter is sent out annual to update the school of any further allergies or changes.

Information Sharing: UK GDPR does not prevent the sharing of a pupil's health information (special category data) where it is necessary to protect their health, safety and wellbeing. Relevant information is securely compiled and shared, as necessary, in a controlled manner with teaching staff, support staff, supply staff, lunchtime supervisors, breakfast and after-school club staff, educational visit leaders and catering teams, whilst maintaining appropriate levels of confidentiality and data protection.

This information is shared through:

- Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs);
- Allergies and medical needs registers held in classrooms, the school office and catering areas;
- Staff briefings and training sessions;
- Secure management information systems and safeguarding records;
- Information provided to supply staff and volunteers on a need-to-know basis;
- Pre-visit and risk assessment documentation for educational visits and off-site activities.

Only staff who require access to the information to fulfil their role will receive it. All staff are expected to maintain confidentiality and handle personal information in accordance with the school's Data Protection Policy, UK GDPR and safeguarding responsibilities.

Parents/carers are responsible for informing the school promptly of any changes to their child's medical condition, allergy status or dietary requirements so that records can be updated and shared appropriately with relevant staff.

Transition: Allergy information and existing care plans are shared as part of a pupils transition. Handale Primary School will request allergy information from the previous school or setting and will consider whether any of the arrangements are suitable to implement. Handale Primary School work with parents/carers and the pupil if appropriate to write a new IHP Staff will provide information about pupils for transition visits ahead of a formal move.

Staff: pre-employment questionnaires will ask whether they have any allergies. If an allergy is declared, there will be a discussion and action plan created to ensure that the member of staff has a safe working environment. This will be supported by the Trust HR Team.

Visitors and regular volunteers: will be asked about allergies ahead of their visit. If an allergy is declared, the allergy lead will be notified, and this information will be communicated as necessary to ensure that the visitor or regular volunteer has a safe working environment – This will be asked when signing in to the school building or before if required.

Pupil Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) and Allergy Action Plans

Allergy action plans

- These are clinical documents that are created by a GP / allergy nurse or allergy clinic. They detail the pupil's allergy and medication.
- These contain parent/carer contact details and must be signed by the parent/carer as this is the parental authority to administer mediation including the administration of spare adrenaline devices.

- These will only be updated by the medical professional following a review of the pupil's allergy management, this could be annually or 5 yearly. Parents/carers or school need to update the photo of the pupil annually so that the pupil is recognisable.

Allergy action plans are issued for pupils who have an IgE food allergy and often a venom allergy that could lead to anaphylaxis. They are not issued for all allergies. Pupils with non-IgE allergies don't experience anaphylaxis and so an allergy action plan is not issued.

Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)
Individual healthcare plans are an essential communication tool that provide clarity about the arrangements which need to be in place to ensure that a pupil is fully included in the life of the school. It will identify exact risk-mitigation measures that need to be followed.
Individual Healthcare Plans are school owned documents that are co-created by school, parents/carers and pupils.

They should include any advice received from health professionals. If there is no advice from health professionals, information and support can be requested of the school nurses if this is needed.
Where a child has an allergy action plan and or an asthma plan, this must be included with the IHP.

It is good practice to review IHPs annually or when staff change however they must be reviewed if an incident or near miss occurs. They need to be brought to the attention of supply or cover staff and be passed on during transition to a new school.

HHA will ensure that:
- pupils with an allergy action plan and/or an asthma plan have an individual healthcare plan
- pupils without an allergy action plan or asthma plan but have an allergy that needs active management over and above what other pupils need will have an individual healthcare plan
- individual healthcare plans are created whilst pupils are waiting for a diagnosis

School Trips and External Visits

HHA ensures that pupils with allergies are fully included in every trip, sporting event, or extracurricular activities. A risk assessment addressing allergen exposure in each activity, emergency medication, transport, and proximity to local emergency care will be undertaken with control measures identified. In order to ensure that the pupil is safe and included, alternative activities will be planned. This will include the safe storage adrenaline for the duration of the school trip.

Staff leading school trips will ensure they carry all relevant emergency supplies. Trip leaders will check that all pupils have their medication including adrenaline devices with them before departure. Pupils unable to produce their required medication will not be able to attend the excursion.

In conjunction with the allergy lead, the trip leader will review the risk assessment to determine whether the school's spare adrenaline devices should be taken on the trip. Handale Primary School will provide additional spare adrenaline devices should the risk assessment for the trip deem necessary to take them ensuring that pupils remaining in school still have access to spare adrenaline devices should the need arise. The school should take advice from H and S before spare AAI are taken off school site.

HHA will notify the host school, when arranging a sporting fixture, that a member of the team has an allergy. When a sports tea is provided, the pupils' school will ensure the pupils allergies are communicated and appropriate food is provided.

Serious Incidents and "Near Misses":

HHA approaches serious incidents and "near misses" in a "no blame" spirit, seeking to learn lessons and address any issues which the incident identified, so that pupils are better protected in the future.

HHA is aware, when an incident occurs that materials such as residues of food consumed or handled or samples of fluids may constitute evidence, which may need to be seized and retained.

HHA records allergic reactions (incidents) and near misses (e.g., accidental exposure without reaction, or labelling errors) immediately. The incident or near miss will be reviewed and a report written.

HHA will share the report with the parents/carers, the pupil and the individual involved. They should be given the opportunity to discuss what happened and to contribute their views to the consequent lessons learned review. Handale Primary School will confirm what it has learned from the incident and outline any actions it is taking as a result. The pupil's IHP will be updated if necessary.

If unsafe food was supplied by the school operating as a food business, the incident must be reported to the local authority environmental health team.

The school should inform the RHD about Incidents and near misses.

Wellbeing and Support

At Handale Primary School allergy safety is a priority and actions to ensure that pupils are included and safe are embedded into the school's culture. Pupils with allergy become anxious as a result of the risk of exposure to allergens and the potential for anaphylaxis, which may be compounded by living with difficult-to-control asthma or eczema.

HHA:

- regularly communicate to pupils, parents and staff about allergies, ensuring ongoing awareness and appreciation of the severity of the potential risks
- includes allergy and anaphylaxis lessons during assembly, tutor time or in PSHE
- plans school celebrations, rewards, and communal events inclusively from the outset to eliminate social isolation
- involve pupils and staff with allergies in developing and reviewing the policy and procedures for allergy management
- understands that allergy bullying is extremely serious and actively monitors, prevents, and addresses any stigmatisation or bullying directed at individuals due to their allergies or dietary constraints
- promotes "allergy champion" roles for staff and pupils(not just within the catering team) who act as a point of contact for pupils and staff with allergies, they can share feedback and support new joiners or anxious pupils
- If appropriate invites new joiners with allergies to have a tour of the kitchen so they can meet staff and get used to the mealtime environment which may help to reduce anxiety and enable staff to identify pupils with allergies in the dining hall
- has proactive engagement with new joiners with known allergies, setting out the school, policies and the support available

Safeguarding:

HHA recognises that a safeguarding referral may be needed if an incident highlighted concern that the child or young person might be at an increased risk of being neglected, abused or exploited by persons inside or outside of their family unit because of their medical condition. This might occur where relevant information about a child or young person's medical condition is not provided to a school, college or setting, or where they are repeatedly sent without essential medication, thereby putting the individual at risk.

Unacceptable practice

HHA staff are clear about what constitutes unacceptable practice and are committed to ensuring that only good practice occurs. Should unacceptable practice occur the school will follow its own procedures to identify and address this using staff conduct policies.

Examples of unacceptable practice include (but are not limited to):

- preventing children and young people from easily accessing and administering their medication in line with what is agreed in their Individual Healthcare Plan (for example prescribed adrenaline devices and asthma reliever inhalers) when and where necessary;
- assuming that every child with the same condition requires the same support;
- assuming that older children and young people do not require support related to their allergy, even if they are able to take increasing responsibility for its management;
- ignoring the views of the child or young person or their parents or carer;
- ignoring medical evidence or the opinion and advice of healthcare professionals;
- assuming that a child or young person does not have an allergy because they do not yet have a diagnosis, for example while medical investigation is under way;
- sending a child or young person who becomes unwell to a school office or medical room without suitable supervision. In the case of an emergency or suspected emergency (for example anaphylaxis) help should come to the child or young person;
- penalising children or young people for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical condition, e.g. hospital appointments and health management. This includes excluding children and young people from rewards for 100% attendance where their non-attendance is the result of a medical condition. This should be reflected in attendance policies;
- requiring parents / carers (or otherwise making them feel obliged) to attend the school, college or setting to administer medication or provide medical support to their child; or
- preventing children and young people from participating or creating unnecessary barriers to them participating in any aspect of school, college or setting life, including external visits and trips, e.g. by requiring parents to accompany the child.

Policy Review and Publication

This policy is published openly on the school website and is reviewed at least annually, or more frequently in response to local incident trends or updated statutory guidelines.

Further reading:

Anaphylaxis UK: for teachers by teachers, the one stop shop for all school allergy needs: https://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk/education

Allergy UK: https://www.allergyuk.org/about-allergy/types-of-allergies

Allergy Safety in Schools July 2026: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/allergy-safety-in-schools

Guidance on the use of adrenaline auto-injectors in schools

Spare Pens in School: https://www.sparepensinschools.uk

Benedict's law:
https://benedictblythe.com/benedicts-law
https://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk/education/benedicts-law

Food:
Allergy Guidance for Schools:https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-food-standards-resources-for-schools/allergy-guidance-for-schools
Allergy Guidance for food businesses:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/allergen-guidance-for-food-businesses

Statutory Duties:

The duties under Section 34 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 place a requirement on LA-maintained schools, Academies and PRUs to have allergy safety policies, publish them and keep them under review.

The duty of care under section 3 of the Children Act 1989 for any person with the care of a child to do all that is reasonable for the purposes of safeguarding or promoting the welfare of the child;

The duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils and pupils under sections 20 and 175 of the Education Act 2002, the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (and associated statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education) and the Non-Maintained Special Schools (England) Regulations 2015;

The duty of the employer under section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 to take reasonable steps to ensure that employees are not exposed to risks to their health and safety;

The duties under the Equality Act 2010 to provide equality of opportunity for all, including those who are disabled.

The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework.