

WITHERLEY C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



Allergy Management Policy

Adopted: May 26

Reviewed: May 27

1. Policy Statement

Our school is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for all pupils, including those with allergies. In line with Benedict's Law, we will maintain robust allergy management procedures, ensure staff are trained, and provide access to emergency medication to reduce the risk of allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.

We recognise that allergies can be life-threatening and require whole-school awareness, consistent practice, and strong communication with families and healthcare professionals.

2. Aims

- To comply fully with Benedict's Law and the forthcoming DfE statutory guidance on allergy and anaphylaxis safety.
- To minimise the risk of allergen exposure within the school environment.
- To ensure all staff are trained to recognise and respond to allergic reactions.
- To maintain clear, effective emergency procedures.
- To work collaboratively with parents, carers, and healthcare professionals.
- To promote an inclusive culture where pupils with allergies feel safe and supported.

3. Definitions

- **Allergy:** An immune system response to a substance (allergen) that is normally harmless.
- **Anaphylaxis:** A severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction requiring immediate treatment.
- **Adrenaline Auto-Injector (AAI):** A device such as an EpiPen, Jext, or Emerade used to treat anaphylaxis.

4. Legal and Statutory Framework

This policy is informed by:

- Benedict's Law (School Allergy Safety Bill) – requiring schools to have:
 - A written allergy policy
 - Spare adrenaline auto-injectors
 - Allergy-trained staff
- DfE statutory guidance on managing allergies and medical conditions (mandatory from September 2026).
- Supporting guidance from Anaphylaxis UK and the NHS.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

5.1 Governing Body

- Ensure the school meets all requirements of Benedict's Law.
- Approve and review the Allergy Management Policy annually.
- Ensure adequate resources for training and emergency equipment.
- Appoint an Allergy Lead Governor

5.2 Headteacher

- Oversee implementation of the policy.
- Ensure staff receive regular allergy and anaphylaxis training.
- Ensure spare AAIs are purchased, stored, and replaced before expiry.
- Ensure risk assessments are completed for activities, trips, and catering.
- Appoint a school allergy lead from the SLT
- Include allergy management on the Risk Register

5.3 School Staff

- Complete mandatory allergy training annually.
- Know how to recognise allergic reactions and administer AAIs.
- Follow individual healthcare plans (IHPs).
- Reduce allergen exposure through safe classroom and dining practices.

5.4 Parents/Carers

- Provide up-to-date medical information and prescribed AAIs.
- Supply the school with in-date medication to be kept on site.
- Communicate any changes in their child's allergy status.

5.5 Pupils

- Learn age-appropriate allergy awareness.
- Follow school rules regarding food sharing and hygiene.

6. Identification and Management of Pupils with Allergies

6.1 Medical Information

- Parents must provide written medical confirmation of allergies.
- The school will maintain a central register of pupils with allergies via Arbor.

6.2 Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

Each pupil with a diagnosed allergy will have an IHP that includes:

- Photograph and identifying details
- Known allergens
- Symptoms of mild and severe reactions
- Emergency action plan
- Medication details and expiry dates
- Parent and GP/consultant contact information

IHPs are reviewed annually or sooner if needed.

7. Staff Training

7.1 Mandatory Training

In line with Benedict's Law, **all staff** will receive:

- Annual allergy awareness training to include recognising anaphylaxis and administering AAI's

8. Emergency Medication (Adrenaline Auto-Injectors)

8.1 Spare AAI's

The school will:

- Maintain at least two spare AAI's of each dose for emergency use, as required by Benedict's Law.
- Store them in accessible, clearly labelled location that can be accessed at all times and within 5 minutes from anywhere on site (School Office)
- Check expiry dates monthly.
- Keep a log of usage and replacements.

8.2 Pupil-Specific AAI's

- Pupils' prescribed AAI's are stored in the School Office.
- Pupils may carry their own AAI if appropriate and agreed in their IHP.

9. Allergen Avoidance and Risk Reduction

9.1 Food and Catering

- The school kitchen will follow strict allergen-management procedures.
- Allergen-free meal options will be available.
- All food provided by the school will be clearly labelled.
- No food sharing is permitted.

9.2 Packed Lunches

Parents are encouraged to avoid sending common allergens (e.g., nuts) where possible to reduce risk.

9.3 Classroom Practices

- Staff will check ingredients for food-based activities.
- Allergen-containing materials (e.g., certain craft supplies) will be avoided.
- Surfaces will be cleaned before and after eating.

9.4 School Trips and Events

- Risk assessments will include allergy considerations.
- Staff will carry pupil-specific and spare AAI's.

- Catering providers will be informed of allergies in advance.

10. Recognising and Responding to Allergic Reactions

10.1 Mild to Moderate Symptoms

- Hives, itching, swelling, stomach pain, coughing.

Action: Follow the pupil's IHP, administer antihistamine if prescribed and monitor closely.

10.2 Severe Symptoms (Anaphylaxis)

- Difficulty breathing
- Swelling of tongue or throat
- Collapse or loss of consciousness

Emergency Action Plan:

1. Lie patient flat on back with legs elevated, do not let them walk or stand
2. Administer AAI immediately.
3. Call 999 and state "anaphylaxis".
4. Administer second AAI after 5 minutes if symptoms persist.
5. Stay with the pupil and monitor breathing.
6. Inform parents/carers.

11. Communication and Record-Keeping

- All incidents will be recorded in the medical log.
- Parents will be informed of any allergic reaction.
- The school will maintain:
 - Allergy register
 - Medication expiry log
 - Training records
 - Incident reports

12. Education and Awareness

- Age-appropriate allergy education will be included in PSHE.
- Posters showing allergy symptoms and emergency steps will be displayed.
- The school will promote a culture of empathy and inclusion.

13. Monitoring and Review

- The policy will be reviewed annually or following:
 - Updates to Benedict's Law
 - Changes in DfE statutory guidance
 - A serious incident or near-miss