

COPPICE VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

ALLERGENS PROCEDURE

Document History

Created / revised & approved by staff	October 2023
Reviewed by Claire Tunney	September 2024
Reviewed by Claire Tunney/Amy Kew	September 2025
Next review date	September 2026

ALLERGENS PROCEDURE

Coppice Valley Primary School

General Statement

This policy is concerned with a whole school approach to the health care and management of those members of our community suffering from specific allergies.

We are aware that our children may suffer from food, bee/ wasp sting, animal or nut allergies and we believe that all allergies should be taken seriously and dealt with in a professional and appropriate way.

Our position is not to guarantee a completely allergen free environment, rather: to minimise the risk of exposure, encourage self-responsibility, and plan for effective response to possible emergencies.

We are committed to no food and drink sharing.

Parents/carers are asked to provide details of allergies in the child's School Admissions Forms, which are submitted before starting school.

General Aims

The intent of this procedure is to minimize the risk of any child suffering allergy-induced anaphylaxis whilst at school.

An allergic reaction to nuts is the most common high-risk allergy, and as such demands more rigorous controls throughout the procedure.

The underlying principles of this procedure include;

- The establishment of effective risk management practices to minimise child, staff, family member and visitor exposure to known trigger foods and insects.
- Staff training and education to ensure effective emergency response to any allergic reaction situation.

This procedure applies to all members of the school community:

School Staff

Parents/carers

Volunteers

Supply staff

Children

Students

Definitions

Allergy - A condition in which the body has an exaggerated response to a substance (e.g. food and drug) also known as hypersensitivity.

Allergen - A normally harmless substance that triggers an allergic reaction in the immune system of a susceptible person.

Anaphylaxis - Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a sudden, severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction to food, stings, bites, or medicines.

Adrenaline Auto-Injector (AAI) - A syringe style device containing the drug Adrenalin, which is ready for immediate inter-muscular administration. (eg an Epi-Pen)

Minimized Risk Environment- An environment where risk management practices (e.g. Risk

assessment forms) have minimised the risk of (allergen) exposure.

Health Care Plan - A detailed document outlining an individual child's condition treatment, and action plan for location of AAI.

Procedures and Responsibilities for Allergy Management

General

- The involvement of parents/carers and staff in establishing individual Health Care Plans.
- The establishment and maintenance of practices for effectively communicating a child's healthcare plan to all relevant staff.
- Staff training in anaphylaxis management, including awareness of triggers and first aid procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency.
- Age-appropriate education of the children with severe food allergies.

Medical Information

- Furthermore, any change in a child's medical condition during the year must be reported to the school.
- For children with an allergic condition, the school requires parents/carers to provide written advice from a doctor (GP), which explains the condition, defines the allergy triggers and any required medication.
- The Headteacher will ensure that a Health Care Plan is established and updated for each child with a known allergy.
- All members of staff are required to review and familiarise themselves with the medical information.
- Where children with known allergies are participating in school excursions, the risk assessments must include this information.

Medical Information (AAI's)

Where AAI's (Adrenalin) are required in the Health Care Plan:

- Parents/carers are responsible for the provision and timely replacement of the AAI
- The AAI's are located securely in relevant locations approved by the Headteacher
- AAI's will be located so that all adults involved with the child know where they are at all times.

The Role of Parents/carers

Parents/carers are responsible for providing, in writing, on-going accurate and current medical information to the school. This includes for both existing allergies and any child who is diagnosed with a previously unknown allergy

Parents/carers are to send a letter to the school to confirm and detail the nature of the allergy; including:

- The allergen (the substance the child is allergic to)
- The nature of the allergic reaction (from rash, breathing problems to anaphylactic shock)
- What to do in case of allergic reaction, including any prescribed medication to be used and how it is to be used.
- Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from getting into contact with the allergen.
- If a child has an allergy requiring an AAI a Health Care Plan issued by a doctor must be completed and signed by the parents/carers.
- It is the responsibility of the parents/carers to provide the school with up to date medication / equipment clearly labelled in the original packaging.
- In the case of life saving medication like AAI's the child will not be allowed to attend without it.

- Parents/carers are also required to provide up to date emergency contact information.
- Snacks and lunches brought into school are provided by each child's parent/carer and it is their responsibility to ensure that the contents are safe for the child to consume.
- Parents/carers should liaise with Staff about appropriateness of snacks and any food-related activities (e.g. cooking)

The Role of Staff

Staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with the procedure and to adhere to health & safety regulations regarding food and drink.

- If a child's School Admissions Form states that they have an allergy then a Health Care Plan is needed. A risk assessment should be carried out and any actions identified to be put in place. The Assessment should be stored with the child's Health Care Plan.
- Upon determining that a child attending school has a **severe allergy**, a team meeting will be set up as soon as possible where all staff concerned attend to update knowledge and awareness of child's needs.
- All staff who come into contact with the child will be made aware of what treatment/medication is required by the Headteacher and where any medication is stored.
- All staff are to promote hand washing before and after eating.
- Snack time foods are monitored by staff and are peanut, nut free and other allergens depending on the children attending. All staff should know the procedures at snack and lunch time to ensure the safety of children with allergies.
- However, staff cannot guarantee that foods will not contain traces of nuts.
- All tables are cleaned with an approved solution.
- Children are not permitted to share food.
- We provide specific AAI use training.
- We may ask parents/carers for a list of food products and food derivatives the child must not come into contact with.
- Emergency medication should be easily accessible, especially at times of high risk.
- Staff should liaise with parents/carers about snacks and any food-related activities.

Actions

In the event of a child suffering an allergic reaction:

- A member of staff will contact the child's parents/carers
- If the child becomes distressed or symptoms become more serious telephone 999.
- Keep calm, make the child feel comfortable and give the child space.
- If medication is available, it will be administered as per training and in conjunction with the Supporting Children with Medical Conditions Policy.
- **All staff are trained in the use of an AAI in an emergency however whenever possible the administration should be done by someone who has received specialist anaphylaxis training. This is Mrs Haddington, Mrs Batty, Miss Wright.**
- If parents/carers have not arrived by the time an ambulance arrives, a member of staff will accompany the child to hospital.
- If a child is taken to hospital by car, two members of staff will accompany them.

Role of other parents/carers

- Snacks and lunches brought into the school by other parents/carers should be peanut and nut free. Eggs in their pure form (boiled eggs, mashed eggs etc) should not be brought in to school, however products containing egg are fine.
- The school will ensure that parents/carers are regularly reminded and will monitor the contents of lunchboxes and snack.
- Birthday/Celebration treats brought to school by parents to share with children, must be individually wrapped with ingredients and allergens printed on the packaging. Homemade

items or bought items that are not individually wrapped with printed ingredients/allergens are not appropriate.

Catering

Parents/carers of a child with any food allergies are required to provide a current medical letter stating the allergies of their child for the school catering company who will assess whether a special diet plan needs to be put in place.