

Hunton & Arrathorne Community Primary School

Allergens Policy



Date: July 2026	Headteacher: Mr S Donaldson
Review Date: July 2027	Chair of Governors: Mrs A Peacock

Hunton & Arrathorne Community Primary School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all pupils, staff, volunteers and visitors with allergies.

The school recognises that allergic disease can range from mild reactions to severe and life-threatening anaphylaxis. We will take all allergies seriously and implement a whole-school approach to prevention, awareness, risk reduction and emergency response.

This policy reflects the principles of Benedict's Law and national best practice by ensuring:

- Clear identification and management of allergy risks.
- Individual healthcare planning for pupils with diagnosed allergies.
- Appropriate training for all staff.
- Access to emergency medication and emergency procedures.
- Effective communication with parents, carers, healthcare professionals and catering providers.
- Inclusion of pupils with allergies in all aspects of school life.

Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- Safeguard pupils and staff with allergies.
- Reduce the likelihood of exposure to allergens.
- Ensure rapid and effective responses to allergic reactions.



- Promote understanding and awareness of allergies throughout the school community.
- Ensure compliance with health and safety, safeguarding and medical needs responsibilities.

Responsibilities

The Governing Body will:

- Approve and review this policy.
- Ensure appropriate resources are available.
- Monitor implementation and compliance.

The Headteacher will:

- Ensure this policy is implemented.
- Ensure staff receive appropriate training.
- Ensure risk assessments are completed where necessary.
- Ensure emergency procedures are understood and practised.

All staff will:

- Be aware of pupils with allergies.
- Follow individual healthcare plans.
- Attend required allergy awareness training.
- Know how to recognise signs of an allergic reaction and anaphylaxis.
- Respond appropriately in an emergency.

Parents and carers must:

- Inform the school of any allergy diagnosis.
- Provide up-to-date medical information.
- Supply prescribed medication where required.
- Notify the school of any changes in medical circumstances.

Identification of allergies

The school will:

- Collect allergy information during admission.
- Update medical information at least annually.
- Maintain a register of pupils with allergies.
- Ensure relevant staff have access to allergy information.
- Ensure confidentiality is balanced with the need to keep children safe.

5. INDIVIDUAL HEALTHCARE PLANS



An Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) will be developed for any pupil with a significant allergy.

The IHP will include:

- Details of allergens.
- Typical symptoms.
- Medication requirements.
- Emergency actions.
- Contact information.
- Arrangements for school trips and extracurricular activities.

Plans will be reviewed:

- At least annually.
- Following any allergic reaction.
- Whenever medical advice changes.

Allergen Risk Management

The school cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment.

However, reasonable measures will be taken to minimise risk, including:

- Staff awareness of known allergens.
- Safe food handling procedures.
- Careful supervision of food-related activities.
- Cleaning procedures to reduce cross-contamination.
- Consideration of allergens during curriculum activities.
- Risk assessments for educational visits and special events.

Where necessary, additional control measures may be introduced for individual pupils following consultation with parents and healthcare professionals.

Catering & Food Management

The school and any catering provider will:

- Maintain allergen information for food served.
- Follow food safety and allergen management procedures.
- Reduce the risk of cross-contamination where reasonably practicable.
- Communicate menu changes where appropriate.
- Ensure staff understand allergy-related risks.

Pupils must not share food, drinks, utensils or lunch items.



Educational Visits

All visits will include consideration of allergy risks.

Visit leaders will:

- Review relevant healthcare plans.
- Carry required medication.
- Ensure supervising adults know emergency procedures.
- Consider food arrangements and allergen exposure risks

Medication

The school will:

- Store medication safely and accessibly.
- Ensure prescribed adrenaline auto-injectors are readily available.
- Monitor expiry dates.
- Keep records of medication held.

Where permitted by legislation and school procedures, the school will maintain emergency spare adrenaline auto-injectors for use in accordance with national guidance.

Training

All staff will receive allergy awareness training appropriate to their role.

Training will include:

- Understanding allergies.
- Recognising allergic reactions.
- Recognising anaphylaxis.
- Use of adrenaline auto-injectors.
- Emergency response procedures.
- Prevention and risk reduction strategies.

Records of training will be maintained.

Allergic Reactions

Possible symptoms may include:

- Itching or tingling.
- Rash or hives.



- Swelling of lips, tongue or face.
- Stomach pain or vomiting.
- Difficulty breathing.
- Wheezing.
- Persistent cough.
- Dizziness or collapse.

Any suspected anaphylactic reaction will be treated as a medical emergency.

Emergency Procedures

If anaphylaxis is suspected:

1. Administer adrenaline auto-injector immediately if available and indicated.
2. Call 999 and state “ANAPHYLAXIS”.
3. Inform the Headteacher or designated senior member of staff.
4. Contact parents/carers.
5. Monitor the individual continuously.
6. Administer a second auto-injector if required and available, following medical guidance and training.
7. Record the incident and undertake a post-incident review.

Recording & Reporting

The school will record:

- Allergic incidents.
- Medication administration.
- Near misses.
- Training records.
- Reviews of healthcare plans.

Significant incidents will be reviewed to identify lessons learned and improvements required.

Communication

The school will:

- Inform relevant staff about pupils with allergies.
- Provide information to supply staff where necessary.
- Work collaboratively with parents and healthcare professionals.
- Promote allergy awareness in an age-appropriate manner.



Monitoring & Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if:

- Legislation changes.
- National guidance changes.
- A significant allergy incident occurs.
- Monitoring identifies improvements are required.

