



Connection ● Communication ● Independence ● Aspiration

Allergy Policy 2026

Redwood School Allergy Policy

Multi-Site SEND School

Applies to: All school sites, outreach provisions, educational visits and off-site activities

1. Policy Statement

The School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for all learners, staff and visitors with allergies. As a SEND school, we recognise that many learners may be unable to independently identify, communicate or manage allergy risks due to their special educational needs, disabilities, communication differences, sensory needs, medical complexities, cognitive needs or physical disabilities.

The school will take all reasonable steps to prevent allergic reactions, respond effectively to emergencies, and ensure that allergy management forms part of our safeguarding, health and safety, medical needs, educational visits, emergency planning and site security arrangements.

This policy complies with:

- The Children and Families Act 2014
 - Equality Act 2010
 - Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
 - Supporting Learners with Medical Conditions at School
 - DfE Allergy Safety in Schools Statutory Guidance (2026) requiring schools to have an allergy policy, staff training, healthcare plans and emergency arrangements.
 - Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026.
 - The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 (Martyn's Law/Protect Duty) through integrated emergency preparedness and incident response planning.
 - SEND Code of Practice 0-25 years.
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2. Aims

The school will:

- Identify learners, staff and regular visitors with allergies.
- Reduce exposure to known allergens wherever reasonably practicable.
- Ensure robust communication across all school sites.
- Provide appropriate Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs).

- Train staff to recognise and respond to allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
 - Maintain emergency medication and equipment.
 - Safeguard vulnerable learners who may not recognise or communicate symptoms.
 - Ensure allergy management arrangements are embedded within school emergency and lockdown procedures.
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3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All learners
 - Staff
 - Volunteers
 - Governors and trustees
 - Contractors
 - Visitors
 - Agency staff
 - Transport providers
 - Before and after-school activities
 - Educational visits
 - Residential visits
 - Alternative provision placements
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4. Definitions

Allergy

An immune system reaction to a substance that is normally harmless.

Allergen

A substance capable of causing an allergic reaction.

Examples include:

- Peanuts
- Tree nuts

- Milk
- Eggs
- Fish
- Shellfish
- Wheat
- Soya
- Sesame
- Insect stings
- Latex
- Medication

Anaphylaxis

A severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction requiring immediate medical intervention.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body

The Governing Body will:

- Ensure compliance with statutory guidance.
 - Approve and monitor this policy.
 - Ensure sufficient resources are available.
 - Review serious incidents and lessons learned.
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Headteacher – Paul Evans

The Headteacher will ensure:

- Policy implementation across all sites.
 - Appropriate staffing and training.
 - Effective communication with families.
 - Adequate emergency arrangements.
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Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) – Sinead Walsh

The DSL will:

- Consider whether allergy-related concerns indicate neglect or safeguarding concerns.
- Work with health professionals and families where repeated failures place a child at risk.
- Ensure allergy risks are considered within safeguarding assessments.

KCSIE clarifies that medical incidents alone do not automatically require safeguarding referral, but repeated failures to provide information or essential medication may become safeguarding concerns.

School Medical Lead – Adele Navesey-Hall

The Medical Lead will:

- Maintain allergy registers.
 - Monitor healthcare plans.
 - Coordinate staff training.
 - Audit medication.
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Staff

All staff must:

- Be aware of allergic learners.
 - Follow healthcare plans.
 - Complete required training.
 - Recognise anaphylaxis symptoms.
 - Act immediately in emergencies.
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Parents and Carers

Parents must:

- Inform the school of allergies.
- Provide prescribed medication.
- Update information promptly.

- Participate in reviews of healthcare plans.
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6. Identification and Risk Assessment

Upon admission or diagnosis:

The school will:

- Obtain medical evidence where available.
- Meet with parents/carers.
- Complete an Individual Healthcare Plan.
- Undertake an allergy risk assessment.
- Share information with relevant staff.

Particular consideration will be given to learners who:

- Have limited communication skills.
 - Use AAC.
 - Have sensory processing needs.
 - Have learning disabilities.
 - Have PMLD.
 - Are unable to self-administer medication.
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7. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

An IHP will detail:

- Diagnosed allergies.
- Signs and symptoms.
- Emergency response procedures.
- Medication requirements.
- Storage arrangements.
- Educational visit arrangements.
- Communication needs.
- Named trained staff.

IHPs will be reviewed:

- Annually.
 - Following any incident.
 - Following changes in medication.
 - Following transition between school sites.
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8. Medication Management

The school will:

- Hold prescribed adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs).
- Maintain permitted spare AAIs in line with statutory requirements.
- Store medication securely but accessibly.
- Check expiry dates regularly.
- Keep emergency medication available during transport and visits.

Medication locations will be clearly identified across all school sites.

9. Prevention and Risk Reduction

The school does not claim to be allergy-free.

Instead, we operate a risk-reduction approach.

Measures may include:

Food Management

- Reviewing catering procedures.
- Allergen information displays.
- Ingredient checking processes.
- Individual risk assessments.
- Safe food preparation procedures.

Classroom Activities

Risk assessment of:

- Cooking

- Sensory play
- Art materials
- Science activities
- Gardening
- Animal interactions

SEND Considerations

Additional controls for learners who:

- Mouth objects
 - Have pica
 - Explore through sensory behaviours
 - Share food unintentionally
 - Cannot understand allergen warnings
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10. Educational Visits and Transport

Before any off-site activity:

- Allergy risks will be assessed.
- Staff will carry emergency medication.
- First aid arrangements will be confirmed.
- Venues will be informed where necessary.
- Transport providers will receive relevant information.

A trained member of staff must be available whenever a learner at risk of anaphylaxis attends an off-site activity.

11. Staff Training

All staff will receive allergy awareness training including:

- Common allergies
- Signs and symptoms
- Emergency procedures
- Use of adrenaline auto-injectors

- Communication strategies for SEND learners
- Recording and reporting requirements

Enhanced training will be provided for:

- First aiders
- Medical leads
- Residential staff
- Educational visit leaders

The DfE requires schools to implement allergy awareness arrangements and maintain appropriate training for staff.

12. Emergency Response

Signs of Anaphylaxis

May include:

- Difficulty breathing
- Wheezing
- Persistent cough
- Swelling of face or tongue
- Collapse
- Dizziness
- Loss of consciousness

Emergency Procedure

1. Administer adrenaline auto-injector immediately.
2. Call 999.
3. Inform ambulance service that anaphylaxis is suspected.
4. Contact parents/carers.
5. Monitor the learner continuously.
6. Administer second injector if advised or required.
7. Record incident.

8. Conduct post-incident review.

Staff must not delay the administration of adrenaline whilst waiting for medical confirmation.

13. Lockdown, Evacuation and Martyn's Law Arrangements

In line with the school's wider emergency planning and Protect Duty arrangements, allergy management will be incorporated into:

- Lockdown procedures
- Evacuation procedures
- Shelter arrangements
- Business continuity planning
- Major incident response plans

Consideration will include:

- Accessibility of emergency medication during lockdown.
- Availability of trained staff on all sites.
- Emergency grab bags containing medication information.
- Communication methods for non-verbal learners.
- Site-specific evacuation points.
- Arrangements for visitors and contractors with known allergies.

Emergency planning arrangements will be tested regularly and reviewed following exercises or incidents.

14. Safeguarding

Allergy management forms part of safeguarding.

Concerns may arise where:

- Essential medication is repeatedly not provided.
- Medical information is deliberately withheld.
- A child's health needs are consistently neglected.
- Failures place the child at increased risk of harm.

Such concerns will be reviewed by the DSL and managed in accordance with safeguarding procedures and KCSIE requirements.

15. Recording, Monitoring and Learning Lessons

The school will maintain records of:

- Allergic reactions
- Near misses
- Medication administration
- Parent communications
- Training records

Following significant incidents, a review will identify:

- Contributing factors
 - Lessons learned
 - Required actions
 - Policy amendments
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16. Equality and Inclusion

Reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure learners with allergies can:

- Access learning
- Attend trips
- Participate in enrichment activities
- Access dining arrangements
- Participate in residential experiences

without discrimination.

17. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed:

- Annually
- Following legislative change

- Following a serious allergy incident
- Following significant changes in learner need

Policy Owner: Assistant Head / Designated Medical Lead

Date: 1st September 2026

Approved by: Governing Body

Date Approved: TBC

Review Date: 1st September 2027