



**Avonbourne Boys' & Girls' Academies**  
The best in everyone™  
Part of United Learning

# Allergies Policy

## 2025

# **Allergies Policy including Nut & Food Allergy**

## **Statement of Intent:**

This policy is concerned with a whole Academies' approach to the health care and management of those members of the Academies' community suffering from specific allergies. Avonbourne Boys' and Girls' Academies are aware that children who attend 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.

As a result, the Academies have taken into consideration advice from the Department for Education's guidance on supporting students at school with medical conditions and EU legislation for food labelling.

Avonbourne Boys' and Girls' Academies' position is not to guarantee a completely allergen free environment, but rather to minimise the risk of exposure, encourage self-responsibility and plan for effective response to possible emergencies. The Statutory Framework states that the provider must obtain information about any dietary requirements/allergy. As such, parents/carers are asked to provide details of allergies in the student's information pack, which is submitted before starting at the Academies.

## **Overall Aim:**

The intent of this policy is to minimise the risk of any child suffering allergy-induced anaphylaxis whilst at the Academies. Additionally, the Academies wish to ensure that students with allergies do not face obstacles which affect their ability to integrate with their peers and affect their general wellbeing and emotional health.

The underlying principles of this policy include:

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

This policy applies to all members of the Academies' community:

- School Staff
- Parents/Carers of students who may/may not have specific allergies
- Volunteers
- Supply staff
- 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
- Epipen – Brand name for syringe style device containing the drug Adrenalin, which is ready for immediate inter-muscular administration
- 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 student's condition, treatment, and action plan for location of Epipens

**Procedures and Responsibilities for Allergy Management:****General**

- The involvement of parents and staff in establishing individual Health Care Plans for students with significant allergies. These plans are the responsibility of the Physical and Medical Learning Coach and are updated in line with statutory guidance
- The establishment and maintenance of practices for effectively communicating a child's healthcare plans to all relevant staff. Information is shared through a secure staff shared area and regular CPD training for all staff at the Academies where appropriate
- Annual staff training in anaphylaxis management if needed, including awareness of triggers and first aid procedures, including Epipen training, to be followed in the event of an emergency
- Age appropriate education of children with severe food allergies

**Medical Information**

Parents/Carers must report any change in a child's medical condition during the year to the Academies.

For students with a significant allergic condition, the school requires parents/carers to meet with the Academies' Physical and Medical Learning Coach to write a Health Care Plan.

The Physical and Medical Learning Coach will ensure that a Health Care Plan is established and updated for each child with a known significant allergy.

Teachers and Learning Coaches of those students and key staff are required to review and familiarise themselves with the medical information which is outlined on the Medical Register and located on Teams.

Where students with known allergies are participating in school excursions, the risk assessments must include this information.

The wearing of a medic-alert bracelet where appropriate, is permitted and encouraged by the Academies.

#### **Medical Information (Epipens)**

Where Epipens (Adrenalin) are required in the Health Care Plan:

- Parents/carers are responsible for the provision and timely replacement of the Epipens
- The Epipens are located in named pigeon-holes in Block B Reception. Students are encouraged to have an additional Epipen in their possession at all times

#### **Parent/Carer role:**

Parents/Carers are responsible for providing, in writing, on-going accurate and current medical information to the Academies.

Parents/Carers are to send a letter confirming and detailing the nature of the allergy including:

- 1 The allergen (the substance the child is allergic to)
- 2 The nature of the allergic reaction (from rash, breathing problems to anaphylactic shock)
- 3 What to do in case of allergic reaction, including any medication to be used and how it is to be used
- 4 Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from getting into contact with the allergen
- 5 If a child has an allergy requiring an Epipen, or the risk assessment deems it necessary, a Health Care Plan must be completed and signed by the parents/carers

It is the responsibility of the parent/carers to provide the Academies with up to date medication/equipment clearly labelled in a suitable container. If we are aware that a child

who requires an Epipen arrives at the Academies without it, they will not be allowed to remain on site. They will be allowed to return as soon as they get the required Epipen in their possession.

Parents are also required to provide up to date emergency contact information. Snacks and lunches brought into the Academies are provided by each child's parent/carer. It is their responsibility to ensure that the contents are safe for the child to consume. This includes children without any allergies, who need to be aware of their responsibilities to others.

Parents/Carers should liaise with staff about appropriateness of snacks and any food-related activities (e.g. cooking)

### **Staff roles:**

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

If a child's Medical Form states that they have a significant allergy, then a Health Care Plan is needed. It must be in place before the child starts attending sessions. A risk assessment may need to be carried out and any actions identified need to be put in place. If required, this should be stored with the child's Health Care Plan. It is the responsibility of the Head of Year to notify the First Aid team, SEND dept and the Physical and Medical Learning Coach of any medical conditions or allergies, where this is made known to the year team.

The Principal will determine if a ban on certain foods is needed after a consultation with the parent/carer and health professionals. They will then publicise this to the whole Academy community.

All staff should regularly check the medical register and student entries on Arbor, so they are aware of all students who have an allergy. Students with an allergy are flagged as having a medical condition on Arbor, and details of the condition or allergy are listed. 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 unless part of a planned activity that the teacher has risk assessed.

As part of the staff first aid course, Epipen use and storage is discussed. Full training on administering an Epipen, is regularly provided in school.

We may ask the parent/carer 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 about snacks and any food-related activities.

**Actions:**

In the event of a child suffering an allergic reaction:

- Check to see if there is a Health Care Plan and follow instructions
- Ensure the First Aid team are notified and marked as URGENT, in the case of possible anaphylaxis
- Contact parent to advise or ask for advice if less serious symptoms
- Calm the child

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		Author	A Brittain
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