Ashbrook Infant and Nursery School

Allergy Safety Policy

Policy Name: Allergy Safety Policy
School: Ashbrook Infant and Nursery School
Policy Lead: Headteacher
Named Senior Leader Responsible for Allergy Safety: Lynette Hardwick
Approved by: Governing Board
Date Adopted: September 2026
Review Date: September 2027
Version: 1.0

1. Policy Statement

Ashbrook Infant and Nursery School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all pupils, staff, visitors and volunteers with allergies.

The school recognises that allergies can be life-threatening and that allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, require a prompt and effective response. We are committed to complying with the requirements of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 ("Benedict's Law") and the Department for Education (DfE) Allergy Safety in Schools statutory guidance.

This policy aims to:

- Protect pupils, staff and visitors with allergies.
- Minimise the risk of exposure to known allergens.
- Ensure staff are appropriately trained to recognise and respond to allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis.
- Promote the wellbeing, inclusion and participation of children with allergies.
- Ensure effective communication with families and healthcare professionals.
- Establish clear procedures for managing allergy-related incidents and near misses.

2. Legislative Framework

This policy has been developed in accordance with:

- Section 34 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 ("Benedict's Law")
- DfE Allergy Safety in Schools Statutory Guidance (2026)
- Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions Guidance
- Equality Act 2010
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018

3. Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Board

The Governing Board will:

- Ensure that this policy is implemented effectively.
- Review allergy safety arrangements annually.
- Receive reports on serious incidents and near misses.
- Ensure adequate resources are available to support allergy management.

Named Allergy Lead - Headteacher

The designated senior leader responsible for allergy safety will:

- Lead the implementation of this policy.
- Monitor compliance.
- Coordinate staff training.
- Maintain allergy records and oversight of Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs).
- Lead investigations into allergy incidents and near misses.
- Arrange annual policy reviews and lessons learned reviews when necessary.

Staff Responsibilities

All staff are responsible for:

- Understanding this policy.
- Completing annual allergy awareness training.
- Taking reasonable steps to minimise allergen exposure.
- Recognising allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
- Following emergency procedures.
- Reporting all incidents and near misses promptly.

Parents/Carers

Parents/carers are expected to:

- Inform the school of any allergy diagnosis.
- Provide up-to-date medical information and emergency action plans.
- Supply prescribed medication where required.
- Ensure medications remain in date.
- Notify the school immediately of any changes to medical needs.

4. Allergy Awareness and School Culture

Ashbrook Infant and Nursery School promotes a culture of awareness, inclusion, understanding and safety.

The school recognises that allergies can have a significant impact on a child's:

- Physical health
- Emotional wellbeing
- Confidence
- Ability to participate fully in school life

The school will actively:

- Promote understanding of allergies.
- Foster an inclusive environment.
- Challenge myths and misunderstandings about allergies.
- Ensure children with allergies are not disadvantaged or excluded from activities.

Bullying and Discrimination

Any bullying, teasing, intimidation or discrimination relating to allergies will be treated as a serious matter and managed in line with the school's Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies.

Examples include:

- Deliberate exposure to allergens.
- Mocking dietary restrictions.
- Excluding children because of their allergies.
- Threatening behaviour involving allergens.

5. Staff Training

All staff who may be present when pupils are on site will receive annual allergy awareness and emergency response training.

This includes:

- Teaching staff
- Teaching assistants
- Lunchtime supervisors
- Office staff
- Supply teachers
- Regular volunteers

Induction Training

New staff will receive allergy awareness information during induction.

Supply and cover staff will be provided with:

- Allergy procedures
- Emergency response information
- Information regarding pupils with significant medical needs

Training Content

Training will ensure staff:

- Understand what allergies are.
- Understand food allergy, asthma, eczema, hay fever and related conditions.
- Understand the differences between allergy, coeliac disease and food intolerance.
- Know pupils' known allergens.
- Recognise signs and symptoms of allergic reactions.
- Recognise anaphylaxis.
- Know emergency procedures.
- Know how to call emergency services.
- Know how to notify parents.
- Know how to locate emergency medication.
- Know how to administer adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs).
- Know how to administer emergency asthma medication.
- Understand Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs).
- Understand Allergy Action Plans and Asthma Action Plans.
- Understand the impact of allergies on wellbeing.
- Know how to report incidents and near misses.

The school will maintain records of all training completed.

6. Identification of Individuals with Allergies

The school will maintain an up-to-date allergy register recording:

- Pupils with allergies
- Staff with allergies (where disclosed)
- Volunteers with allergies (where disclosed)
- Visitors with known severe allergies where necessary

The register will include:

- Known allergens
- Nature of allergy
- Prescribed medication
- Location of medication
- Whether an Individual Healthcare Plan exists
- Whether an Allergy Action Plan exists
- Emergency contact details

Information will be gathered through:

- Admission forms
- Medical information forms
- Parent meetings
- Healthcare professional reports
- Information from previous settings

7. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

An Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) will be created where a pupil:

- Has an allergy that impacts their school experience.
- Requires specific support arrangements.
- Is at risk of harm from allergy.
- Requires emergency medication.

IHPs will:

- Be developed with parents/carers.
- Reflect medical advice from healthcare professionals.
- Include risk reduction measures.
- Include emergency procedures.
- Reference and attach Allergy Action Plans or Asthma Action Plans where provided.

IHPs will be reviewed:

- Annually.
- Following any significant medical change.
- Following any allergic reaction.
- When updated healthcare information is received.

8. Minimising Risk

Food Provided by School

The school will:

- Work with Aspens 'catering providers' to identify allergens.
- Request accurate ingredient information.
- Make allergen information available to parents.
- Consider allergy requirements when planning menus.
- Ensure staff supervising meals are aware of allergy risks.

Food Brought into School

The school requests that:

- Parents avoid sending foods identified as high risk to specific pupils.
- Food brought for celebrations is approved in advance.
- Staff follow risk assessments relating to individual pupils.

Ashbrook Infant and Nursery School cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment but will take all reasonable precautions.

Curriculum Activities

Staff planning activities must consider allergen exposure risks in:

- Cooking activities
- Science activities
- Craft activities
- Sensory play
- Musical activities
- Animal-related activities

Alternative arrangements will be provided when necessary.

Airborne and Contact Allergens

Where a pupil has known airborne or contact allergies, the school will put appropriate measures in place, including:

- Environmental controls.
- Cleaning procedures.
- Restrictions on specific materials where necessary.
- Risk assessments.

9. Food Allergy Management

The school will ensure that information about allergens in school-provided food is available.

Staff supervising food-related activities will:

- Follow individual pupil health plans.
- Avoid cross-contamination where reasonably practicable.
- Ensure food used in curriculum activities is risk assessed.

10. Prescribed Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs)

Pupils prescribed AAIs must have rapid access to them at all times.

The school will ensure AAIs are accessible:

- In classrooms.
- During lunchtime.
- On playgrounds.
- During PE activities.
- During educational visits and off-site activities.

The school aims to ensure no pupil is more than five minutes from adrenaline in an emergency.

Parents and Carers

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing in-date prescribed medication.
- Replacing expired medication promptly.
- Collecting medication for home use when necessary.

The school will maintain a register of:

- Pupils prescribed adrenaline devices.
- Medication expiry dates.
- Corresponding Allergy Action Plans.

11. Spare Adrenaline Devices

The school will maintain spare adrenaline auto-injectors in accordance with national guidance.

Storage

Spare AAIs will be in the First Aid Station in the staffroom and Nursery Kitchen.

- Be clearly labelled.
- Be readily accessible.
- Not be locked away.
- Be stored in pairs.
- Be located where they can reach any pupil within five minutes.

The school will maintain an emergency anaphylaxis kit containing:

- Spare AAIs
- Emergency asthma inhaler (where held)
- Spacers
- Instructions for use

Monitoring

The school will:

- Check expiry dates regularly.
- Replace expired devices.
- Replace devices immediately after use.
- Dispose of used AAIs safely in accordance with healthcare guidance.

12. Educational Visits and School Trips

Children with allergies will be enabled and supported to participate fully in educational visits and school trips.

For pupils at risk of anaphylaxis:

- Individual risk assessments will be completed.
- Emergency medication will accompany the pupil.
- Staff trained in anaphylaxis management will accompany the trip.
- Emergency procedures will be reviewed before departure.

No pupil will be excluded from a visit solely because of their allergy unless a safe solution cannot reasonably be identified.

13. Emergency Procedures

If an allergic reaction occurs:

Staff must:

1. Follow the child's Allergy Action Plan.
2. Administer prescribed medication if required.
3. Administer adrenaline immediately if anaphylaxis is suspected.
4. Call 999 without delay.
5. Inform parents/carers as soon as possible.
6. Monitor the child until emergency services arrive.
7. Record the incident.

The school recognises that, in an emergency, any person may take reasonable action to save a life.

14. Serious Incidents and Near Misses

Definitions

Serious Incident

Any allergy-related event where:

- A child, staff member or visitor is harmed; or
- There is an immediate and significant risk of harm; or
- Emergency medication, urgent clinical intervention or emergency services are required.

Near Miss

An event that did not cause harm but had the clear potential to do so.

Reporting

All incidents and near misses must be:

- Recorded using the school's reporting procedures.
- Reported to parents/carers.
- Reported to the Governing Board where appropriate.
- Reviewed to identify lessons learned.

Following any serious incident or near miss, procedures and risk assessments will be reviewed.

15. Information Sharing and Data Protection

The school will maintain allergy information in accordance with UK GDPR.

Information will only be shared with staff who need it to keep children safe.

The school will balance:

- Safety needs
- Privacy considerations
- Children's dignity and wellbeing

Healthcare information will be processed lawfully, securely and sensitively.

16. Awareness of the Policy

The school will:

- Publish this policy on the school's website.
- Make hard copies available on request.
- Include allergy safety information in staff induction.
- Review policy awareness annually.
- Promote age-appropriate allergy awareness among pupils.

Where appropriate and agreed with parents, classmates may be given age-appropriate information about how to seek help in an emergency.

17. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed:

- At least annually.
- Following any significant allergy incident.
- Following any near miss.
- Following changes to legislation or guidance.

The review process will consider:

- Incident records.
- Near miss reports.
- Parent feedback.
- Staff feedback.
- Changes in pupil needs.
- Updated statutory guidance.

Policy Approval
Headteacher: Lynette Hardwick
Named Allergy Lead: Lynette Hardwick
Chair of Governors: Margaret Smith
Date Approved: September 2026
Review Date: September 2026