



St George's Church of England Infant School

Whole School Allergy Policy

Compliant with Benedict's Law and the Department for Education Statutory Guidance on Allergy Safety in Schools (2026)

Statutory Policy

Date of Policy: 01.09.2026	Review cycle: Annually (Or following any significant allergy-related incident)	Review date: 01.09.2027
Approved by: Head Teacher Chair of Governors	Approval date: August 2026	Policy lead: Victoria Harjette

Let your Light shine (Matthew 5v16)

The 6 Principles of Nurture:

These principles underpin all teaching and learning at St George's, ensuring that our classrooms are safe, inclusive and supportive spaces for every child to grow and thrive.

1. Children's learning is understood developmentally.
2. The classroom offers a safe and secure base.
3. Nurture is central to wellbeing and learning.
4. Language and communication are vital for connection and understanding.
5. All behaviour is communication.
6. Transitions are recognised and supported as significant moments in a child's life.

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1. Policy Statement

St George's Infant School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all pupils, staff, visitors and volunteers with allergies.

We recognise that allergies can be serious and potentially life-threatening. We will take all reasonable steps to reduce the risk of allergen exposure and ensure that all members of our school community can participate fully in school life.

This policy has been developed in line with the requirements of Benedict's Law, which requires schools to:

- Maintain a whole-school allergy policy.
 - Provide allergy awareness and emergency response training for all staff.
 - Hold emergency adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) on site.
 - Maintain Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) for pupils requiring allergy management.
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2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All pupils
 - All employees
 - Governors
 - Volunteers
 - Peripatetic staff
 - Contractors
 - Visitors
 - Before and after school clubs
 - School trips
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3. Objectives

The school will:

1. Identify pupils with allergies as early as possible.
 2. Maintain accurate and up-to-date health information.
 3. Minimise the risk of accidental allergen exposure.
 4. Ensure rapid and effective emergency response.
 5. Promote awareness and understanding of allergies throughout the school community.
 6. Support inclusion without creating unnecessary restrictions.
 7. Comply fully with statutory guidance and safeguarding responsibilities.
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4. Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Board

The Governing Board will:

- Ensure compliance with statutory requirements.
- Review this policy annually.
- Monitor allergy-related incidents.

The Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- Ensure implementation of this policy.
- Appoint a Named Allergy Lead.
- Ensure all staff receive appropriate training.
- Ensure emergency medication is available.

Named Allergy Lead

The Allergy Lead will:

- Maintain the allergy register.
- Coordinate Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Monitor staff training.
- Audit emergency medication.
- Lead post-incident reviews.

All Staff

All staff must:

- Complete allergy awareness training annually.
- Familiarise themselves with pupils' healthcare plans.
- Know how to recognise allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
- Act immediately in an emergency.

Parents and Carers

Parents 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 to treatment.

5. Identification of Pupils with Allergies

Upon admission, parents will be required to provide details of:

- Food allergies
- Drug allergies
- Insect sting allergies
- Latex allergies
- Environmental allergies
- Any history of anaphylaxis

The school will maintain a confidential Allergy Register that is reviewed at least termly.

6. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

All pupils with severe allergies requiring management in school will have an Individual Healthcare Plan.

The IHP will include:

- Identified allergens
- Typical symptoms
- Medication requirements
- Location of medication
- Emergency procedures
- Contact information
- Educational visit arrangements

Plans will be:

- Developed with parents and healthcare professionals where appropriate.
- Reviewed annually.
- Updated following any allergic reaction or change in medical advice.

7. Staff Training

All staff will receive annual training covering:

Allergy Awareness

- Common allergens
- Allergy prevention strategies
- Cross-contamination risks

Recognition of Allergic Reactions

Signs may include:

- Rash or hives
- Swelling
- Vomiting
- Persistent cough
- Wheezing
- Breathing difficulties
- Collapse

Emergency Response

- Use of adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs)
- Calling emergency services
- Supporting the pupil until help arrives
- Recording and reporting incidents

New staff will receive training during induction.

8. Emergency Medication

The school will maintain:

Pupil Medication

Where prescribed:

- At least two in-date AAIs.

- Any prescribed antihistamines or inhalers.

School Emergency AAls

The school will hold spare emergency AAls in accordance with current legislation and guidance.

Emergency medication will:

- Be easily accessible.
- Not be locked away.
- Be checked monthly.
- Be replaced before expiry.

9. Allergy Management in School

The school does not guarantee an allergen-free environment. Instead, we will implement reasonable risk reduction measures. These include:

Classrooms

- Staff awareness of specific allergens.
- Careful management of food-based activities.
- Cleaning procedures after food use.

Dining Areas

- Appropriate allergen information sharing.
- Staff supervision.
- Measures to reduce cross-contamination risks.

School Events

- Allergy considerations included in planning.
- Food providers informed of known allergy requirements.

Visitors and Contractors

Relevant allergy information will be shared where necessary.

10. Food and Catering

Where meals are provided:

- Allergen information will be available.
- Catering staff will receive appropriate training.
- Reasonable adjustments will be made for pupils with diagnosed allergies.

The school will work closely with catering providers to ensure safety arrangements remain robust.

11. Educational Visits and Residential Trips

Risk assessments will specifically address allergy risks.

The visit leader must ensure:

- Access to medication.
- Staff trained in emergency response.
- Suitable meal arrangements.

- Emergency contact details available at all times.

No pupil will be excluded solely because of an allergy where risks can be reasonably managed.

12. Responding to an Allergic Reaction

Mild to Moderate Reaction

Staff will:

1. Stay with the pupil.
2. Follow the Individual Healthcare Plan.
3. Administer medication if authorised.
4. Monitor closely.
5. Inform parents.

Suspected Anaphylaxis

Staff will:

1. Administer adrenaline immediately.
2. Call 999 and state "anaphylaxis".
3. Administer a second AAI if symptoms persist and clinically indicated.
4. Contact parents.
5. Ensure the pupil is taken to hospital even if symptoms improve.

When in doubt, adrenaline should be administered promptly in accordance with prescribed emergency plans.

13. Recording and Reporting

All allergy incidents will be recorded.

Records will include:

- Date and time.
- Circumstances.
- Symptoms observed.
- Action taken.
- Outcome.
- Follow-up actions.

A review will be completed after every significant incident to identify lessons learned and reduce future risks.

14. Communication

The school will:

- Publish this policy on the school website.
- Inform parents annually of allergy procedures.
- Promote awareness among pupils in an age-appropriate manner.
- Share relevant information with staff while maintaining confidentiality.

Publishing a whole-school allergy policy is a core expectation under Benedict's Law.

15. Anti-Bullying

The school will not tolerate bullying, harassment or teasing related to allergies or medical conditions.

Such behaviour will be dealt with under the school's Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy.

16. Monitoring and Review

The Allergy Lead will conduct an annual review covering:

- Staff training compliance.
- Emergency medication audits.
- Allergy incidents.
- Educational visit arrangements.
- Policy effectiveness.

Findings will be reported to governors.

Appendix A – Common Allergens

The 14 major allergens are:

1. Celery
2. Cereals containing gluten
3. Crustaceans
4. Eggs
5. Fish
6. Lupin
7. Milk
8. Molluscs
9. Mustard
10. Peanuts
11. Sesame
12. Soya
13. Sulphur dioxide/sulphites
14. Tree nuts

Appendix B – Emergency Anaphylaxis Procedure

If a pupil is showing signs of anaphylaxis:

1. Send for help immediately.
2. Administer adrenaline auto-injector without delay.
3. Call 999 – state "ANAPHYLAXIS".
4. Record the time the AAI was given.
5. Monitor breathing and responsiveness.
6. Give a second AAI if symptoms continue and another device is available.
7. Inform parents/carers.

8. Ensure the pupil is transported to hospital.