



# St Bartholomew's CE Primary School

## Allergy Management

### 1 Introduction

This policy is concerned with a whole school approach to the health care and management of those members of the school community suffering from specific allergies.

### 2 Rationale

St Bartholomew's C of E Primary school's position is not to guarantee a completely allergen free environment, rather: to minimise the risk of exposure, encourage self-responsibility, and plan for effective response to possible emergencies. The intent of this policy is to minimize the risk of any pupil suffering allergy-induced anaphylaxis whilst at school or attending any school related activity.

The common causes of allergies relevant to this policy are nuts (in particular peanuts), dairy products, eggs, wasps, bees and ants. An allergic reaction to nuts is the most common high-risk allergy, and as such demands more rigorous controls throughout the policy.

The underlying principles of this policy include:

- The establishment of effective risk management practices to minimise the pupil, staff, parent / carer / guardian and visitor exposure to known trigger foods and insects.
- Staff training and education to ensure effective emergency response to any allergic reaction situation.
- This policy applies to all members of the St Bartholomew's C of E Primary School community:
  - School Staff
  - Parents / Carers / Guardians
  - Volunteers
  - Supply staff
  - Pupils

### 3 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.
- Minimised 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 pupil's condition treatment, and action plan for location of Epipen.

### 3a Key Strategies:

#### General

- The involvement of parents / carers / guardians, staff and the pupil in establishing individual Health Care Plans.
- The establishment and maintenance of practices for effectively communicating individual pupil medical plans to all relevant staff.
- The incorporation of allergy management strategies into the risk assessments for all school events, excursions and sporting activities.
- Staff training in anaphylaxis management, including awareness of triggers and first aid procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency.
- Age appropriate education of the children with severe food allergies.
- The school lunch provider complies with food in schools' guidance and provides allergen information relating to all menus which is acted upon by staff to safeguard pupils in school.
- Parents / carers / guardians are requested to carefully consider eliminating allergenic food stuffs from their child's lunch boxes and celebratory events.

#### Nut related

- Classroom teachers promote hand washing before and after eating.
- St Bartholomew's C of E Primary School is committed to a no food and drink sharing policy.
- There is age-appropriate education of the children with severe nut allergies – peanut.
- Class teachers will encourage parents to provide a 'swap box' in order that they are not excluded from events that involve home baking.
- In school fund raising events which involve home baking will ensure that they are clearly labelled that all products may contain nuts.

#### Dairy and Egg related

- Pupils with dairy product or egg allergies are managed by the school in consultation with the parents / carers / guardians on a case by case basis.
- There is age-appropriate education of the children with the severe dairy / egg allergies.

#### Insect related

- Diligent management of wasp and ant nests on school grounds.
- Education of pupils to report significant presence of insects in play areas.
- There is age-appropriate education of the children with severe insect allergies.

#### Other allergies

- Pupils with allergies are managed by the school in consultation with the parents / carers / guardians on a case by case basis.
- There is age-appropriate education of the children with allergies.

## 4 Procedures and Responsibilities for Allergy Management

### i. Medical Information

Parents / carers / guardians are responsible for providing, in writing, ongoing accurate and current medical information to the school. The school will seek updated information via Health Care Plans at the commencement of each academic year. Furthermore, any change in a child's medical condition during the year must be reported to the school.

For pupils with an allergic condition, the school requires parents / carers / guardians to provide written advice from a doctor (GP), which explains the condition, defines the allergy triggers and any required medication.

The Head Teacher will ensure that a Health Care Plan and Action Plan is established and updated for each child with a known allergy. Teachers and teacher assistants of those students and key staff are required to review and familiarise themselves with the medical information.

Health Care charts with a recent photograph for any pupils with allergies will be issued to each class and the lunch time supervisors.

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

Relevant sports coaches are provided with medical information for any pupil with known allergies prior to undertaking the activity.

Child Care staff are provided with medical information for any pupil with known allergies prior to attending the breakfast or after school club.

The wearing of a medic-alert bracelet is allowed by the school.

#### ii. Medical Information (EpiPens)

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

- Parents / carers / guardians are responsible for the provision and timely replacement of the EpiPens, in all sections of the school.
- The EpiPens are located securely in relevant locations approved by the Head Teacher.

**Approved by the Governors: November 2022**

**Review Date: November 2024**