

Waddington and West Bradford CE Primary School

Allergy Policy

I. Policy Statement

Waddington and West Bradford CE Primary School is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all pupils, including those with food allergies, intolerances, and other medical conditions. We recognise that allergies can be life-threatening and require a proactive and whole-school approach.

This policy aligns with:

- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions (DfE)
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- Food Information Regulations (including Natasha's Law)
- Safeguarding duties
- Benedict's Law, which reinforces the responsibility of educational settings to implement robust allergy management procedures, staff training, and emergency response planning to prevent avoidable allergic incidents.

2. Aims

- To minimise the risk of allergic reactions within the school environment
- To ensure staff are trained to recognise and respond to allergic reactions
- To support pupils with allergies so they can safely participate in all school activities
- To comply with legal and safeguarding responsibilities, including Benedict's Law

3. Definition of Allergies

An allergy is an immune system response to a substance (allergen) that is usually harmless. Common allergens include:

- Nuts (peanuts, tree nuts)
- Milk and dairy products
- Eggs
- Wheat/gluten

- Fish and shellfish
- Sesame
- Certain fruits or insect stings

Reactions range from mild to severe. A severe reaction (anaphylaxis) can be life-threatening and requires immediate action.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Headteacher

- Ensure implementation of this policy
- Ensure staff training is up to date
- Maintain compliance with Benedict's Law requirements

Designated Medical Lead / SENCo

- Maintain up-to-date medical records
- Ensure Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) are in place
- Coordinate staff training

School Staff

- Be aware of pupils with allergies
- Follow care plans and risk assessments
- Recognise symptoms of allergic reactions
- Administer medication (e.g., adrenaline auto-injector) when trained

Parents/Carers

- Provide accurate medical information
- Supply medication (e.g., EpiPen) within expiry date
- Inform school of any changes

Pupils

- Be aware of their own allergies where age-appropriate
- Avoid sharing food
- Notify staff if they feel unwell

5. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

All pupils with diagnosed allergies must have an IHP which includes:

- Details of allergens
- Symptoms of reaction
- Emergency procedures
- Medication instructions
- Named responsible staff

These plans are:

- Reviewed annually (or sooner if changes occur)
- Shared with relevant staff

6. Prevention and Risk Management

General Measures

- No food sharing policy
- Handwashing before and after eating
- Cleaning of surfaces before food consumption
- Clear labelling of food in school

Allergen Awareness

- Staff informed of high-risk pupils
- Visual alerts (where appropriate)
- Whole-school education on allergies

High-Risk Foods

Depending on pupil needs, the school may:

- Implement nut-free or restricted food zones
- Monitor packed lunches where required

7. Catering and Food Provision

- All food prepared on-site must comply with allergen labelling regulations

- External providers must supply ingredient and allergen information
- School kitchens will maintain allergen management procedures

8. Trips, Activities, and Events

Risk assessments must include:

- Allergen exposure risks
- Access to emergency medication
- Availability of trained staff

Staff must:

- Carry medication at all times
- Know emergency procedures
- Check food arrangements in advance

9. Training

In line with Benedict's Law, the school ensures:

- Annual allergy awareness training for all staff
- Specialist training in administering adrenaline auto-injectors
- Awareness of anaphylaxis symptoms and emergency response

Training records are maintained and monitored.

10. Emergency Procedures

Recognising Anaphylaxis

Symptoms may include:

- Difficulty breathing
- Swelling of lips, tongue, or throat
- Rapid pulse
- Collapse

Action to Take

1. Administer adrenaline auto-injector immediately
2. Call 999 and state "anaphylaxis"
3. Stay with the child
4. Administer second dose if required (after 5 minutes if no improvement)
5. Inform parents/carers

All incidents are recorded and reviewed.

11. Medication

- Pupils must have prescribed medication available at all times
- Spare emergency auto-injectors may be held by the school (where permitted)
- Medication is stored safely but easily accessible

12. Communication

- Staff are informed of allergy needs at the start of each year
- Supply staff are briefed
- Parents are informed of school allergen rules
- Clear communication is maintained during events and trips

13. Monitoring and Review

- Policy reviewed annually
- Incident reports analysed to improve practice
- Updates made in line with legislation, including Benedict's Law

14. Linked Policies

- Medical Conditions Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Health and Safety Policy

- Behaviour Policy

15. Conclusion

Waddington and West recognises that effective allergy management is a safeguarding priority. In accordance with Benedict's Law, we are committed to maintaining high standards of awareness, prevention, and response to ensure every child is safe, supported, and able to fully participate in school life.

Date: June 2026

Review Date: September 2027