

Finchampstead Primary School's Whole-School Allergy Safety Policy

Statutory Compliance: Benedict's Law / DfE Allergy Safety

1. Policy Statement & Principles

Finchampstead Primary school is committed to providing a safe, inclusive environment for all pupils, including those living with severe allergies and risk of anaphylaxis. We recognise that allergic reactions can be life-threatening and can occur with or without a prior diagnosis.

In accordance with Benedict's Law, this policy ensures proactive risk reduction, whole-staff training, clear emergency response procedures, and full inclusion for pupils with allergies across all school activities.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

- Governing Board: Ensures the school meets statutory requirements, reviews incident reports, and monitors policy effectiveness annually.
- SLT Allergy Lead (Jacquie Vanstone) supported by Assistant Headteacher Andrea Wirth oversee policy implementation, maintain the medical register, ensure spare adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) are checked, and manage near-miss/incident reviews.
- All School Staff: Complete annual allergy awareness training, know how to recognise symptoms of anaphylaxis, and know the immediate steps for administering emergency treatment.
- Catering Staff: Manage allergen cross-contamination risks, verify dietary requirements against individual healthcare plans, and maintain allergen labelling.

3. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) & Pupil Support

- An Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) and BSACI Allergy Action Plan will be created for every pupil with an identified allergy.
- IHPs detail specific triggers, mild/severe symptoms, emergency contacts, and medication requirements.
- A formal clinical diagnosis is not required for an IHP to be established if a functional impact or risk is identified.
- IHPs are accessible to all relevant staff while maintaining appropriate pupil privacy.

4. Emergency Preparation & Spare Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs)

- **Prescribed Medication:** Parents must supply two in-date AAIs for any child prescribed them, clearly labelled and kept accessible (never locked away).
- **Emergency School Stock:** In accordance with statutory provisions, the school maintains spare emergency AAIs (e.g., EpiPen / Jext / Emerade) for use if a pupil's own device fails or for an unexpected severe reaction.
- **Location of Emergency Kits:** Spare AAIs and rescue kits are located in the Children's kitchen first aid cupboard.
- **5-Minute Rule:** Systems are structured to ensure an AAI can be accessed and administered within 5 minutes of symptom onset anywhere on site.
- **Routine Checks:** Monthly audits are conducted to verify expiration dates and functionality of all spare devices.

5. Staff Training & Emergency Response

- **Universal Training:** All teaching, support, administrative, lunchtime, and club staff undergo accredited annual allergy and anaphylaxis training.
- **Safety Drills:** The school conducts termly simulated allergy emergency drills (similar to fire drills) to test response times and staff confidence.
- **Emergency Protocol:**
 1. **Recognise:** Identify signs of anaphylaxis (difficulty breathing, throat tightness, swelling, dizziness, collapse).
 2. **Administer:** Immediately administer the child's prescribed AAI or emergency spare AAI.
 3. **Call 999:** Request an ambulance, explicitly stating "anaphylaxis."
 4. **Position:** Lay the child flat with legs elevated (or sitting upright if breathing is severely impaired (do not stand them up).
 5. **Second Dose:** If no improvement occurs within 5 minutes, administer a second AAI.

6. Risk Reduction, Inclusion & Daily Operations

- Children with allergies will never be excluded from school events, trips, dining room seating, or practical lessons due to their condition.

- Classroom & Craft Activities: Staff must audit lesson plans (e.g., junk modelling, food technology, science) to ensure materials (e.g., egg cartons, nut-based craft items, seed mixes) do not pose allergen risks.
- School Trips: Risk assessments for off-site visits must account for allergen safety, meal planning, and portable emergency AAI kits.
- Food brought from Home: Guidelines are issued to parents regarding packed lunches and birthday treats to minimise allergen exposure across year groups.

7. Incident Reporting & Near-Miss Monitoring

- Any allergic reaction or "near miss" (e.g., cross-contamination error, delayed medication access) must be recorded immediately.
- The SLT Lead conducts a full investigation following any incident.
- Findings and lessons learned are formally shared with parents and reported to the Governing Board to continually refine procedures.