

"Love one another as Jesus loved us" (John 13 v 34-35)

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Diocese
of Blackburn



St. John's C.E. (VA) School Cliviger

‘Learn, Pray, Care & Play’

Our church school through its Christian values and caring community seeks to inspire each individual to achieve and grow.

Allergy and Anaphylaxis Policy

Aims:

This policy aims to:

- Minimise the risk of any pupil suffering a serious allergic reaction whilst at school or attending any school related activity.
- Ensure staff are appropriately prepared to recognise and manage serious allergic reactions should they arise.
- Set out the school's approach to allergy management including reducing the risk of exposure.
- Make clear how St John's Cliviger supports pupils with allergies to ensure their wellbeing and inclusion and demonstrate and understanding that, for children with allergy/anaphylaxis, this can be a significant cause of anxiety and low self - esteem.
- Promote and maintain allergy awareness across the whole school community.
- Ensure allergy safety policies are reviewed annually or in response to 'near misses' or incidents which suggest there are areas for improvement in provision.

Introduction:

An allergy is a reaction of the body's immune system to substances that are usually harmless. The reaction can cause minor symptoms such as itching, sneezing or rashes but sometimes causes a much more severe reaction called anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a serious, life-threatening allergic reaction. The whole body is affected; these are referred to as ABC symptoms (Airway, Breathing, Circulation).

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Legislation and guidance:

Our policy is based on the Department for Education's guidance on allergies in schools and supporting pupils with medical conditions at school, the Department of Health and Social Care's guidance on using emergency adrenaline auto-injectors in schools, and the following legislation:

- The Food Information Regulations 2014
- The Food Information (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2019

Roles and responsibilities:

At St John's Cliviger, we take a whole school approach to allergy awareness.

The member of staff responsible for allergy awareness and procedure is Mrs Sara Pickup (SENDCO).

They are responsible for:

- Promoting and maintaining allergy awareness across our whole school community to ensure prompt responses, accurate reporting and reviews.
- Recording, collating and disseminating allergy and special dietary information for all relevant pupils.
- Setting out what flexibility and reasonable adjustments are required for the individual in addition to prescribed medications (either proactively or in an emergency situation).
- Ensuring:
 - All allergy information is up to date and readily available to relevant staff members.
 - All pupils with allergies have an allergy action plan completed by a medical professional in consultation with parents and children (where appropriate).
 - All staff receive appropriate and timely training.
 - All staff are aware of the school's policy and procedures regarding allergies.
 - All staff are aware of which activities require an Allergy Risk Assessment and ensure these are in place.
- Keeping stock of the school's adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) and ensuring they are in date. They are also responsible for the safe disposal of AAI and inhalers.
- Regularly reviewing and updating the allergy policy ensuring it is published on the school website and is made available in paper copy where required.
- Setting out induction arrangements for new staff as well as arrangements to ensure supply and cover staff have received allergy awareness training and have the relevant information about the children in their care.

Designated members of staff:

All permanent members of staff hold a First Aid Certificate and as part of this training, learn about allergies and the use of AAIs. Staff training is kept up to date.

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Teaching and support staff

All teaching and support staff in pupil facing roles are responsible for:

- Completing the appropriate allergy awareness training when directed.
- Promoting and maintaining allergy awareness among pupils.
- Ensure information regarding children with allergies is disseminated with respect and care in accordance with its designation as special category data under UK GDPR.
- Maintaining awareness of our allergy policy and relevant procedures.
- Being able to recognise the signs of moderate and severe allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
- Carefully considering the use of food and other allergens in lessons and activity planning.
- Ensuring the wellbeing and inclusion of pupils with allergies.

Parents/Carers:

Parents are responsible for:

- Ensuring the school is made aware immediately of any allergies, medication requirements and any history of allergic reactions.
- Being aware of our school's allergy policy.
- Ensuring the school has in-date adrenaline auto-injectors if required alongside other medical requirements.
- Following the school's guidance on food brought into school for snacks, lunches and to share.
- Updating the school on changes to the child's medical condition.

School nurse:

The school nurse is responsible for:

- Supporting the school with information and paperwork from the parents/carers.
- Supporting the school with the coordination of medication with parents/carers.
- Providing advice and relevant training to the school community.

Pupils with allergies:

Pupils with allergies are responsible for:

- Being aware of their allergens and the risks these pose to them (age appropriate).
- Having an awareness of when and how to use their medication, including AAls (age appropriate).

Pupils without allergies:

Pupils without allergies are responsible for:

- Being aware of allergens and the risks they pose to their peers.
- Showing care and empathy for their peers and supporting their wellbeing and inclusion.
- Demonstrating an understanding of what is an appropriate response in an emergency.

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Allergy awareness training should ensure all staff:

- Have an awareness of allergy, the risks it poses, how allergic reactions can occur and how to manage them.
- Understand that allergy includes multiple conditions (food allergy, asthma, eczema, hay fever, others), which can co-exist.
- Understand the difference between food allergy, coeliac disease and food intolerance.
- Know that there are an infinite variety of allergy triggers.
- Can identify the signs and symptoms of allergic reactions.
- Understand and recognise the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis.
- Know how to respond in an emergency situation.
- Understand the impact of allergy on wellbeing.
- Understand their responsibilities in reducing the risk of individuals with a known allergy coming into contact with their known allergen.

Managing risks:

Risk assessments will be carried out for:

- Any activity involving food or other potential allergens.
- Off- site events and trips.
- Any activities involving animals and associated allergens including therapy dog etc.

Catering:

The school buys into Lancashire County Council's catering service. Allergy information is shared with the relevant departments and updates to children's needs are communicated promptly. The catering staff implement their own measures to ensure the kitchen is free from allergens which include:

- Additional cleaning when the kitchen has been used by outside agencies.
- Appropriate training for all catering and welfare staff to ensure awareness and understanding of implications and consequences.

Other measures in place include:

- School menus are available for parents to view with ingredients clearly labelled.
- Where changes are made to the menus, these are communicated to parents and the catering team ensure these additions continue to meet the specific dietary needs of all pupils.
- Catering staff follow hygiene and allergy procedures when preparing food to avoid cross contamination.

Lancashire County Council Catering Service's 'Primary Policy for the provision of special diets and communication of allergens' can be found at:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/catering/foodsolutions/special-diets/primary-school-allergens-and-special-diet-policy>

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School trips and sporting excursions:

Staff leading school trips (including overnight trips) and sporting excursions are responsible for ensuring all required medication including AAls are present on the activity and that risk assessments are carried out to ensure the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children with allergies.

Emergency treatment and management of anaphylaxis:

Symptoms include:

- swelling of the throat and tongue
- difficulty breathing or breathing very fast
- difficulty swallowing, tightness in the throat or a hoarse voice
- wheezing, coughing or noisy breathing
- feeling tired or confused
- feeling faint, dizzy or fainting
- skin that feels cold to the touch
- blue, grey or pale skin, lips or tongue – if they have brown or black skin, this may be easier to see on the palms of their hands or soles of their feet
- a rash that's swollen, raised or itchy.

Follow these steps if you think a pupil you're with is having an anaphylactic reaction:

1. Use an adrenaline auto-injector (AAI) either belonging to the child or the spare AAI's held in school– instructions are included on the side of the injector.
2. Call 999 for an ambulance and say that you think they are having an anaphylactic reaction and any additional information regarding allergens and medication.
3. Lie them down – raise their legs, and if they're struggling to breathe, raise their shoulders or sit them up slowly
4. If they have been stung by an insect, try to remove the sting if it's still in the skin.
5. If their symptoms have not improved after 5 minutes, use a 2nd adrenaline auto-injector.

Do not get them to stand or walk at any time, even if they feel better.

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Adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs)

- A register of pupils with an AAI is kept within school and they have a medical information form containing all relevant information and a picture of the pupil. Copies of this form are kept in the children's red bags in class, on the wall in the SEND room and centrally by their teacher.
- AAIs are stored according to the manufacturer's directions and monitored by the designated lead member of staff
- **They are accessible at all times**
- AAI's expiry dates are recorded and checked monthly. Replacements are sought in a timely manner

Useful links:

Anaphylaxis UK: <https://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk>

Allergy UK: <https://www.allergyuk.org>

BSACI Allergy Action Plans: <https://www.bsaci.org/professional-resources/resources/paediatric-allergy-action-plans/>

Benedict's Law - Benedict Blythe Foundation <https://benedictblythe.com/benedicts-law>

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