



Thrunscoe Primary and Nursery Academy

Allergies Policy

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

At Thrunscoe Primary and Nursery Academy we are aware that our children may suffer from food, bee/wasp sting, animal or nut allergies and we believe that all allergies should be taken seriously and dealt with in a professional and appropriate way.

The academy's position is not to guarantee a complete allergen free environment, rather to minimise the risk of exposure, to encourage self-responsibility and plan for effective response to possible emergencies.

The *Statutory Framework* states that the provider must obtain information about any dietary requirements/allergies. As such families are asked to provide details of children's allergies in the academy's admissions forms, which are submitted before starting at the academy.

Aim:

The intent of this policy is to minimise the risk of any child suffering allergy-induced anaphylaxis whilst at the academy. 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 child, staff 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 academy community:

- Academy staff
- Families
- Volunteers
- Supply staff
- Children
- Students

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 – 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 exposure.

Health Care Plan or Individual Risk Assessment – A detailed document outlining an individual child's condition treatment, and action plan for location of epipen.

Procedures and Responsibilities for Allergy Management

General

- The involvement of families and staff in establishing individual Health Care Plans or risk assessments.
- The establishment and maintenance of practices for effectively communicating a child's healthcare plans or risk assessments to all relevant staff.
- 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.

Medical Information

- The academy will seek updated information at the commencement of each academic year and requests parents to communicate any change in a child's medical condition during the year as soon as possible.
- For children with an allergic condition, the academy requires families to provide written advice from a doctor (GP), which explains the condition, defines the allergy triggers and any required medication.
- The headteacher will ensure that a Health Care Plan or risk assessment is established and updated for each child with a known severe allergy.
- All members of staff are required to review and familiarise themselves with the medical information.
- Children with severe allergies will have a recent photograph and information regarding their medical needs posted in the staff room and medical room, with parental permission.
- Where children with known allergies are participating in academy excursions, the visit risk assessments must include this information.
- The wearing of a medic-alert bracelet is allowed by the academy.

Medical Information (epipens)

Where epipens (Adrenalin auto injectors) are required in the Health Care Plan or risk assessment:

- Families are responsible for the provision and timely replacement of the epipens.
- The epipens are located securely in the medical room.
- All staff in the academy know where the epipens are stored.

The Role of Families

Families are responsible for providing on-going accurate and current medical information to the academy. The academy will seek detail of the nature of the allergy; including:

- The allergen (the substance the child is allergic to)
- The nature of the allergic reaction (from rash, breathing problems to anaphylactic shock)
- What to do in case of allergic reaction, including any medication to be used and how it is to be used.
- Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from getting into contact with the allergen.

- If a child has an allergy requiring an epipen, or a risk assessment deems it necessary, a Health Care Plan or risk assessment must be completed and approved by the family.
- It is the responsibility of the families to provide the academy with up to date medication/equipment clearly labelled in the original packaging.
- In the case of life saving medication, such as an epipen, the child will not be allowed to attend without it.
- Families are required to provide up to date emergency contact information.
- Snacks and lunches brought into academy are provided by each child's parent.
- It is the family's responsibility to ensure that the contents are safe for the child to consume.
- Families should liaise with staff about appropriateness of snacks and any food-related activities (e.g. cooking).

Some families may share information about allergies that have not been medically identified and this information we will treat in the same way as if it were medically identified.

The Role of Staff

Staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with this policy and adhering to health & safety regulations regarding food and drink.

- If a child's admissions form states that they have a severe allergy then a Health Care Plan or risk assessment is needed and any actions identified must be put into place.
- Upon determining that a child attending academy has a severe allergy, the relevant details will be sought and all staff will be made aware of the child's needs.
- All staff are to promote hand washing before and after eating.
- Snack time foods are monitored by staff and are peanut, nut free and other allergens depending on the children attending. All staff should know the procedures at snack and lunch time to ensure the safety of children with allergies. However, staff cannot guarantee that foods will not contain traces of nuts.
- All tables are cleaned with an approved solution.
- Children are not permitted to share food.
- The academy provides specific epipen use training.
- The academy will ask families for a list of food products and food derivatives the child must not come into contact with.
- Emergency medication is easily accessible to all staff members.
- Staff should liaise with families about snacks and any food-related activities.
- Medication must be taken on trips and visits to other establishments

Actions

In the event of a child suffering an allergic reaction:

- A member of staff will contact the child's parent/carer.
- If the child becomes distressed or symptoms become more serious an ambulance will be called.
- The child should be made comfortable and given space.
- If medication is available, it will be administered as per training and in conjunction with the Supporting Children with Medical Conditions Policy.
- If parent/carer has not arrived by the time the ambulance arrives, a member of staff will accompany the child to hospital.
- If a child is taken to hospital by car, two members of staff will accompany them.

Role of Other Families

- Snacks and lunches brought into the academy by other families should be peanut and nut free wherever possible.
- The academy will ensure that families are regularly reminded and will monitor the contents of lunchboxes and snacks.
- The academy allows birthday cakes to be brought into the classrooms for sharing with the class but these are wrapped and sent home at the end of the day.

School meals

Chartwells is our current meal provider and they have their own policy for food allergies. They provide the academy kitchen with a list of allergens and ingredients contained in their meals. The catering assistants are aware of the allergies within the academy and check the allergy lists against the known allergens of the children.

Policy date: June 2022

Approved by the Resources Committee of the Governing Body on: 15th June 2022

Next Review date: June 2024