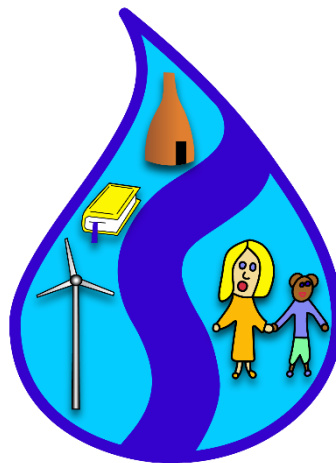


Waterside Primary School



Allergy Policy

(In line with new statutory guidance 2026)

Reviewed Date	Reviewed By	Ratified
30.03.26	L Willis	

Primary School Allergy Management Policy (2026 Update)

1. Purpose

This policy sets out how the school will safeguard pupils with allergies, prevent avoidable allergic reactions, and respond effectively in an emergency. It reflects the new **mandatory statutory guidance on managing medical conditions and allergies in schools**, due to come into force in **September 2026**.

2. Legal and Statutory Framework

From September 2026, all schools in England must comply with new statutory requirements introduced following the government's commitment to **Benedict's Law**. These include:

- **Stocking spare adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs)** for emergency use.
- **Providing compulsory allergy and anaphylaxis training for all staff.**
- **Having a comprehensive whole-school allergy policy.**
- **Ensuring Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)** for pupils with allergies, including personalised Allergy Action Plans.

These measures replace previous non-statutory advice and are designed to ensure consistent, life-saving protections for children with allergies across all schools.

3. Definitions

- **Allergy:** A reaction by the immune system to a substance (allergen).
- **Anaphylaxis:** A severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction requiring immediate treatment with adrenaline.
- **Adrenaline Auto-Injector (AAI):** A device used to deliver a life-saving dose of adrenaline.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 Governing Body

- Ensures the school complies with statutory allergy guidance.
- Monitors implementation of this policy and associated training.

4.2 Headteacher

- Ensures all staff receive **mandatory annual allergy and anaphylaxis training**.
- Oversees the maintenance and safe storage of **spare AAIs**.
- Ensures IHPs are in place and reviewed annually.
- Ensures robust incident reporting and lessons-learned processes.

4.3 Staff

- Must complete compulsory allergy awareness and AAI training.
- Must know how to recognise symptoms of an allergic reaction and respond immediately.
- Must follow pupils' IHPs and Allergy Action Plans.

4.4 Parents/Carers

- Must provide up-to-date medical information and prescribed AAIs.
- Must work with the school to develop and review IHPs.

4.5 Pupils

- Encouraged to develop age-appropriate understanding of their allergies and self-advocacy skills.

5. Identification and Management of Pupils with Allergies

5.1 Admission and Induction

- Parents must declare allergies on admission forms.
- The school will meet with parents to create an **Individual Healthcare Plan** and obtain a medically approved **Allergy Action Plan**.

5.2 Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

Each IHP will include:

- The pupil's allergens and typical symptoms.
- Preventative measures.
- Emergency procedures.
- Location of the pupil's prescribed AAls.
- Consent for administering medication.
- Roles and responsibilities of staff.

This is now a statutory requirement.

6. Preventative Measures

6.1 Allergen-Safe Practices

- Clear communication with catering teams regarding allergens.
- Allergen-aware classroom practices (e.g., no food sharing, careful use of craft materials).
- Clear signage in dining areas and classrooms where relevant.

6.2 Staff Training

All staff will receive:

- Annual allergy awareness training.
- Practical training in recognising anaphylaxis.
- Training in administering AAls.
This is now compulsory under the new law.

6.3 Spare AAls

- The school will stock **spare adrenaline auto-injectors** for emergency use, as required by the new statutory guidance.
- Spare AAls will be stored in accessible, clearly labelled locations.
- Expiry dates will be monitored monthly.

7. Emergency Response Procedures

7.1 Recognising an Allergic Reaction

Staff must be alert to:

- Hives, swelling, itching
- Difficulty breathing
- Vomiting or abdominal pain
- Collapse or loss of consciousness

7.2 Immediate Actions

1. **Administer the pupil's prescribed AAI immediately.**
2. **Call 999** and state "anaphylaxis".
3. **Use a spare AAI** if the pupil's own device is unavailable or a second dose is required.
4. Stay with the pupil and monitor breathing.
5. Inform parents/carers as soon as possible.
6. Record the incident and complete a lessons-learned review (now required under statutory guidance).

8. Storage, Maintenance and Record-Keeping

- All prescribed and spare AAIs will be stored in unlocked, clearly marked, accessible locations.
- A register of pupils with allergies will be maintained and updated termly.
- All incidents will be logged and reviewed to improve practice.

9. School Food Standards and Catering

- Catering staff must receive allergy awareness training.
- Menus must clearly identify allergens.
- The school will work with families to ensure safe meal options.
- This aligns with wider government reforms to school food systems.

10. Communication and Awareness

- Allergy information will be shared with relevant staff on a need-to-know basis.
- Posters showing signs of anaphylaxis and AAI instructions will be displayed.
- Pupils will receive age-appropriate education on allergy safety.

11. Monitoring and Review

- This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if statutory guidance changes.
- The school will monitor compliance with training, IHPs, and emergency procedures.

12. Links to Other Policies

- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions
- First Aid Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Food and Nutrition Policy