

Grimsargh St Michael's C of E Primary School



Allergy Safety Policy

Let your light shine before people so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5: v.16)

Inspiring, believing and achieving in our loving Christian community

Policy Statement

Grimsargh St Michael's C of E Primary School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all pupils, including those with allergies and at risk of anaphylaxis. This policy should be read alongside the school's Medical Needs Policy which sets out the school's wider arrangements for supporting pupils with medical conditions, administering medication, individual healthcare plans and emergency procedures.

This policy has been developed in response to the strengthened national expectations for allergy management in schools following the introduction of Benedict's Law and accompanying Department for Education statutory guidance from September 2026. The school recognises that allergy management requires a whole-school approach and therefore maintains a standalone Allergy Safety Policy in addition to its Medical Needs Policy.

This policy has been developed in line with:

- Department for Education statutory guidance on supporting pupils with medical conditions.
- Equality Act 2010.
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.
- Benedict's Law and associated allergy safety requirements for schools from September 2026.

Purpose

This policy aims to:

- Protect pupils with allergies from exposure to allergens where reasonably practicable.
- Ensure a consistent approach to allergy management across the school.
- Reduce the risk of allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
- Ensure staff can recognise and respond appropriately to allergic reactions.
- Promote inclusion and participation in all aspects of school life.

Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body

The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that appropriate arrangements are in place to safeguard pupils with allergies. The Governing Body will:

- Monitor the implementation of this policy
- Ensure sufficient resources are available to support allergy management
- Receive information regarding allergy incidents and lessons learned
- Review this policy annually or sooner if required

A designated Allergy Safety Link Governor will meet, termly, with the Allergy Lead to review procedures, monitoring information, training records and any incidents or near misses.

Headteacher

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for allergy safety within the school and will ensure that:

- Appropriate procedures are implemented
- Staff receive relevant training
- Allergy incidents are reviewed and acted upon
- Pupils with allergies are supported to participate fully in school life

Allergy Lead

The Allergy Lead will:

- Oversee implementation of this policy.
- Maintain the register of pupils with allergies.
- Ensure healthcare plans remain current.
- Coordinate staff training.
- Review incidents and identify lessons learned.
- Liaise with parents, healthcare professionals and catering providers.

School Staff

All staff are responsible for:

- Following this policy and any Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Attending relevant training
- Being aware of pupils with allergies within their care
- Taking reasonable steps to reduce allergen risks
- Acting promptly in an emergency
- Reporting allergic reactions and near misses

Supply staff, volunteers and visitors working with pupils will be provided with relevant information regarding known allergy risks.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are responsible for:

- Providing accurate and up-to-date medical information
- Supplying prescribed medication and ensuring it remains in date
- Informing the school promptly of any changes to their child's medical needs
- Working in partnership with the school to support safe allergy management

Pupils

Pupils will be encouraged, according to their age and understanding, to:

- Follow agreed allergy management arrangements
- Avoid known allergens
- Inform a member of staff immediately if they feel unwell or think they have been exposed to an allergen
- Respect the medical needs of other pupils

Communication with Parents

The school will work in partnership with parents and carers by:

- Obtaining accurate medical information
- Reviewing healthcare plans regularly
- Notifying families of incidents involving their child
- Seeking parental guidance where additional support is required

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing up-to-date medical information
- Supplying in-date medication
- Informing the school promptly of changes to medical needs

Identification of Pupils with Allergies

Parents must notify the school of any diagnosed allergy on admission and whenever circumstances change.

The school will:

- Maintain an up-to-date register of pupils with allergies
- Record allergies on the school's management system
- Ensure relevant staff are informed of individual pupil needs
- Review allergy information annually and whenever notified of changes

Individual Healthcare Plans

In accordance with the school's Medical Needs Policy, all pupils with significant allergies or at risk of anaphylaxis will have an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP/IHCP).

The plan will include:

- Details of allergens
- Symptoms of allergic reaction
- Emergency procedures
- Medication requirements
- Storage arrangements
- Staff responsibilities

Plans will be reviewed at least annually or sooner if medical needs change.

Staff Training

To ensure a consistent and effective approach to allergy management, all staff will receive annual allergy awareness and safety refresher training. New staff will complete allergy safety training as part of their induction. This includes:

- Teachers
- Teaching assistants
- Office staff
- Site staff
- Supply staff (where appropriate)

Training will include:

- Understanding allergies and anaphylaxis
- Recognising symptoms
- Emergency response procedures
- Use of adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs)
- Reducing allergen risks within school
- A termly anaphylaxis drill

The PTFA will work with our school staff and allergy leads to ensure that food sold at school events does not compromise the safety of pupils with allergies. Where food is provided, allergen information must be available, and the sale of products containing nuts will be avoided wherever reasonably practicable.

Training records will be maintained by the school.

Medication and Adrenaline Auto-Injectors

Pupils prescribed an adrenaline auto-injector (e.g. EpiPen, Jext or Emerade) must have their prescribed medication available in school at all times.

In line with the school's Medical Needs Policy:

- Prescribed AAls will be readily accessible
- Medication will not be locked away
- Relevant staff will know their location

In accordance with Benedict's Law requirements, the school will also maintain spare, in-date emergency adrenaline auto-injectors for use in an emergency where appropriate.

The Allergy Lead will ensure:

- Termly checks of expiry dates have been completed and expiry dates recorded
- Parents/carers have been contacted regarding the replacement of any expired adrenaline auto-injectors and/or other allergy medication.
- Suitable and secure storage
- Availability during educational visits

Expiry dates for pupil allergy medication will be checked, by Mrs Elspeth Towers, office administrator, at least termly and whenever medication is reviewed or replaced. Parents/carers will be notified in advance of any medication approaching its expiry date and will be responsible for providing replacements as required.

Preventing Exposure to Allergens

The school recognises that it is not possible to guarantee an allergen-free environment.

However, the school will take reasonable steps to reduce risk by:

- Sharing allergy information with relevant staff
- Promoting good handwashing practices
- Implementing appropriate cleaning procedures
- Undertaking risk assessments where necessary
- Considering allergy risks when planning curriculum activities, events and visits
- Working with catering providers to identify allergen information

The school will not routinely declare itself 'nut-free' or 'allergen-free', as this may provide a false sense of security.

School Meals and Food Activities

The school will work with catering providers to:

- Identify pupils with food allergies
- Share relevant dietary information
- Communicate allergen information to families where appropriate
- Confirm that catering staff receive appropriate allergy awareness training and follow relevant food safety procedures

Where food is used as part of the curriculum or celebrations:

- Staff must consider known allergies before activities take place
- Alternative materials or foods will be provided where necessary
- Parents and carers are aware that food items should not be sent into school for birthday celebrations
- Parents may be consulted in advance

Pupils with a food allergy will wear an orange lunch band, which is distinct from the coloured bands used to identify meal selections. This system provides a clear visual indicator for catering staff, helping to ensure that pupils receive meals that are appropriate to their individual dietary and allergy requirements.

Educational Visits and Off-Site Activities

Pupils with allergies will be fully included in educational visits wherever possible.

The visit leader will ensure:

- Allergy risks are considered in risk assessments
- Medication accompanies the pupil
- Appropriate trained staff attend the visit
- Emergency procedures are understood by supervising adults

These arrangements align with the school's Medical Needs Policy.

Responding to an Allergic Reaction

All staff should be aware of the signs of an allergic reaction, including:

- Swelling of lips, tongue or throat
- Difficulty breathing
- Wheezing
- Persistent coughing
- Dizziness or collapse
- Widespread rash or hives

If anaphylaxis is suspected:

1. Administer the pupil's prescribed AAI immediately or use the school's spare AAI where appropriate
2. Call 999 and request an ambulance, stating 'anaphylaxis'
3. Inform parents/carers as soon as possible
4. Monitor the pupil until emergency services arrive
5. Follow the pupil's healthcare plan and emergency procedures

A second AAI may be administered if advised and available.

Recording and Reporting Incidents and Near Misses

A near miss may include accidental allergen exposure that did not result in a reaction, missing medication identified before an emergency, or any incident that had the potential to cause harm.

All allergic reactions, administration of medication, emergency service call-outs and near misses will be recorded and reviewed.

The Allergy Lead will investigate:

- The nature of the incident

- Contributing factors
- Whether existing procedures were followed
- Whether medication was available and accessible
- Any additional measures required to reduce future risk

Following an incident, the school may:

- Update Individual Healthcare Plans
- Amend risk assessments
- Review staff training needs
- Introduce additional control measures
- Communicate lessons learned with relevant staff

The Governing Body will receive anonymised information regarding significant allergy incidents as part of its monitoring responsibilities.

Emergency Response Procedure

All staff should familiarise themselves with individual healthcare plans and allergy action plans where applicable.

If anaphylaxis is suspected:

1. Stay with the pupil and immediately send for their prescribed medication and the school's spare AAI if available.
2. Administer the adrenaline auto-injector without delay.
3. Call 999 and clearly state that anaphylaxis is suspected.
4. Inform the school office and request that parents/carers are contacted.
5. Keep the pupil under constant supervision.
6. Where possible:
 - Keep the pupil lying flat.
 - If breathing is difficult, allow them to sit with legs extended.
 - Do not allow the pupil to stand or walk.
7. A second AAI may be administered after five minutes if symptoms do not improve and another device is available.
8. Ensure emergency services are met promptly upon arrival.
9. Send the pupil's healthcare plan and details of medication administered with the ambulance crew.
10. Record the incident as soon as practicable.

Any pupil who receives adrenaline must always be medically assessed and must not return to normal activities until advised by medical professionals.

Wellbeing, Inclusion and Bullying

The school recognises that living with allergies can have an emotional impact on children and may cause anxiety for both pupils and families.

We are committed to ensuring that pupils with allergies are fully included in all aspects of school life wherever reasonably practicable. Reasonable adjustments will be made to enable participation in learning activities, educational visits, clubs and school events.

The school promotes understanding and awareness of allergies through staff training and pupil education where appropriate.

Any form of teasing, bullying or deliberate behaviour that places a pupil at risk due to their allergy will be treated seriously and dealt with in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy and safeguarding procedures.

This includes:

- Deliberate exposure to known allergens
- Pressuring a pupil to eat, touch or handle items that may cause a reaction
- Tampering with medication or emergency equipment
- Making derogatory comments regarding a pupil's allergy

Support will be offered to any pupil affected by an allergic reaction, serious incident or near miss.

Information Sharing and Data Protection

Information relating to a pupil's allergy constitutes special category personal data and will be handled in accordance with the school's Data Protection Policy and UK data protection legislation.

The school will:

- Store allergy information securely
- Share information only with staff and professionals who need it to keep pupils safe
- Ensure healthcare plans are available to relevant staff
- Maintain confidentiality whilst balancing the need to protect pupils from harm

Relevant allergy information may be shared with:

- Teaching and support staff
- Catering providers
- Educational visit leaders
- Healthcare professionals
- Emergency services where appropriate

Parents and carers will be informed how their child's information is used to support their safety within school.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or earlier if there are changes to legislation or Department for Education guidance.

The Governing Body will ensure the school remains compliant with the requirements of Benedict's Law and associated Department for Education guidance, including annual staff training, maintenance of spare adrenaline auto-injectors, implementation of Individual Healthcare Plans and the regular review of allergy incidents and control measures.

The Governing Body will monitor implementation through:

- Policy review.
- Training records.
- Healthcare plan audits.
- Incident reviews.

Key Related Documents

- School Medical Needs Policy 2025–2026.
- DfE Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions.

- DfE Allergy Safety Guidance (September 2026).
- Anaphylaxis UK Guidance for Schools.

School-Specific Allergy Arrangements

(To be completed annually)

Allergy Leadership Team: Mr Stuart Booth (Headteacher), Miss Helen Smith (Deputy Headteacher), Miss Emma Dewhurst (Business Manager)

Location of Pupil Allergy Medication:

Location of Spare Adrenaline Auto-Injectors: Two additional EpiPens are stored in the main office- each in an EpiPen bag, which will be a different colour from the individual pupils' EpiPen bags. These EpiPen bags will be kept in a basket, above the hatch, which is out of sight of all visitors.

Location of Emergency Inhaler:

Member of Staff Responsible for Medication Checks:

Frequency of Medication Checks: Termly and before educational visits

Incident Reporting System Used:

Emergency Access Point for Ambulance Services:

Catering Provider: Lancashire County Council

Date of Last Staff Allergy Training: September 2026

Date of Next Scheduled Staff Allergy Training: Spring Term 2027

Signed: **Mr Stuart Booth**

Date: **September 2026**

Review Date: **July 2027**

Agreed by the Full Governing Body: