ALLERGY SAFETY POLICY

1. Introduction

This policy sets out the school's statutory duty to identify, reduce, and respond to allergy-related risks. It is issued under section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014, as amended by the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026. It aims to ensure pupils with allergies are safely included in all aspects of school life, including mealtimes, trips, and extracurricular activities.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

- The Academic and Welfare Committee is responsible for the annual review of this policy.
- The Headteacher is responsible for the implementation of this policy and will oversee the school's record / register of children with an allergy risk and review serious incidents and near misses and report these immediately to the Trust's Operations Officer
- **All Staff:** Must complete annual allergy awareness training, be able to recognise anaphylaxis, and know how to respond in an emergency.

3. Identifying Pupils and Staff with Allergy

- Each school will seek allergy information from parents during admission and at the start of each academic year.
- A record of all individuals with allergies, including photos and known triggers, will be kept in staff-only areas where food is served (e.g., kitchens, staff rooms).

4. Minimising Risk and "Allergy-Aware" Environment

- **Culture**: The school is not required to operate a "nut-free" policy, as this can create a false sense of security. Generally, we maintain an "allergy-aware" environment through risk controls and education.
- **Mealtimes**: Pupils with allergies will not be segregated from their peers such as being required to sit at separate tables, unless specifically guided by a medical practitioner and recorded in their IHCP. We use at least two identification methods (e.g., photo registers and lanyards) to ensure safe meal provision.
- **Classroom Activities**: Staff must assess risks for activities involving food, such as crafts (e.g., avoiding egg cartons or bird feed) and food technology.
- **Bullying**: The school will actively monitor for and address any allergy-related bullying, including threats of exposure to allergens.

5. Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs)

- **Prescribed AAIs:** Pupils at risk of anaphylaxis should carry two in-date devices at all times, including during travel to and from school.
- **Spare AAIs**: The school stocks "spare" adrenaline auto-injectors for emergency use.
- **Access**: AAIs are stored at room temperature in a safe, unlocked central location and must be accessible within five minutes from anywhere on the school site.
- **Emergency Use:** Spare AAIs may be used to save a life, even if prior parental consent has not been obtained (e.g., for a first-time reaction).

6. Staff Training

- All staff must receive regular allergy awareness training, which must occur at least annually. The requirement extends to all permanent, temporary, and supply staff, as well as peripatetic staff, agency workers, and regular volunteers
- Catering staff and those overseeing breakfast or after-school clubs must be included, but contractors with no pupil-facing role (e.g., builders or electricians) are excluded
- Allergy awareness must be a compulsory part of the induction for all new staff, including supply and cover personnel
- All staff must be trained in the
    - recognition of mild, moderate, and severe (anaphylaxis) reactions.
    - The "ABC" of anaphylaxis: Airway, Breathing, and Circulation.
    - Administration of AAIs and emergency asthma inhalers, and their location within the school
    - Emergency response procedures, including calling 999 and reporting "near misses".
    - Understand how to report an allergic reaction or case of anaphylaxis (whether an incident or a "near miss").

7. Educational Visits and Trips

- A specific risk assessment will be conducted for any pupil at risk of anaphylaxis participating in a visit.
- At least one member of staff trained in administering adrenaline must accompany the trip, and the pupil must have their two prescribed AAIs with them.
- Schools will carry out a trip specific risk assessment and consider whether it may be appropriate, under some circumstances, to take "spare" adrenaline devices in case of emergency to use. However, this should not cause a lack of "spare" adrenaline devices on school premises.

8. Serious Incidents and Near Misses

- The school defines a "near miss" as any event that could have led to a serious incident (e.g., a child almost being served their allergen).
- All incidents and near misses will be recorded in the accident book and shared with parents, the senior leadership team, and the Trust Operations Officer to identify lessons learned.

9. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed **annually** or immediately following any serious incident or near miss.

Previous version	N/A - New August 2026
This Version	2026 V1
Date last reviewed	N/A

Date of next review	June 2027 (to coincide with A&W committee meeting)
Review cycle	Annual, in conjunction with 'Medicines and Supporting ….'
Summary of change at last review	N/A