

Lytham Church of England Primary School



Allergy Safety Policy

To inspire everyone in our school family to be the best they can be within our caring Christian community.

Our strap line is, 'Together We Grow With God'.

Policy Statement

Lytham C of E Primary School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for pupils, staff and visitors with allergies. We recognise that allergies can significantly affect health, wellbeing and participation in school life and that severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) can be life-threatening.

This policy sets out the school's arrangements for allergy safety in accordance with statutory guidance issued under Benedict's Law and complements the school's Medical Needs Policy, First Aid Policy, Safeguarding Policy and Educational Visits Policy.

The Headteacher is the named member of the Senior Leadership Team responsible for allergy safety, implementation of this policy and the monitoring of allergy-related incidents and near misses.

This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if legislation changes or following a serious allergy incident.

Culture

Lytham C of E Primary School promotes a culture of understanding, inclusion and support for individuals with allergies.

We will:

- Support pupils with allergies to participate fully in all school activities.
- Encourage open communication between school, parents and healthcare professionals.
- Promote understanding of allergy conditions amongst staff and pupils.
- Ensure pupils with allergies are treated with dignity and respect.
- Take all allergy concerns seriously while maintaining a balanced and inclusive approach.

Allergy Awareness Training

The school will provide annual allergy awareness and emergency response training for all staff who may be present when pupils are on site. This includes:

- Teachers
- Teaching assistants
- Welfare staff
- Office staff
- Breakfast and after-school club staff
- Regular volunteers
- Temporary and supply staff where appropriate

Training will include:

- Understanding allergy and allergic disease.
- Understanding food allergy, asthma, eczema and hay fever.
- Recognising allergic reactions.
- Recognising anaphylaxis.
- Understanding allergy triggers.
- Use of Allergy Action Plans and Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Administration of adrenaline auto-injectors.
- Emergency response procedures.
- Incident and near-miss reporting.
- Understanding emotional impacts of allergies.

New staff will receive allergy information and emergency procedures as part of their induction. Supply staff will be provided with relevant allergy information before working with pupils.

Wellbeing and Inclusion

The school recognises that living with allergies can cause anxiety for pupils and families.

We will:

- Support pupils' emotional wellbeing.
- Encourage positive peer relationships.
- Address concerns promptly.
- Promote understanding through PSHE and other curriculum opportunities.
- Prevent discrimination against pupils with allergies.

The school adopts a zero-tolerance approach to bullying related to medical conditions or allergies. Any incidents will be managed in accordance with the Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies.

Minimising Risk

The school will take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of exposure to known allergens. Staff planning activities must consider potential allergen exposure. This includes:

- Cooking activities
- Food tasting activities
- Science lessons
- Art and craft activities
- Animal visits
- Forest school activities
- Educational visits

Reasonable measures may include:

- Reviewing ingredients before activities.
- Using alternative materials.
- Enhanced supervision.
- Individual risk assessments.
- Communication with parents.

Handwashing will be encouraged before and after eating.

The school does not operate as a completely allergen-free environment as this cannot be guaranteed. Instead, risks are assessed and managed appropriately.

Food Allergy Management

The school will work with catering providers and parents to minimise food allergy risks.

The school will:

- Ensure allergen information is available for school meals.
- Share relevant information with catering staff.
- Consider allergy needs when planning food-related events.
- Avoid using food unnecessarily in classroom activities.
- Encourage parents not to send food items known to pose a significant risk to identified pupils.

Where required, individual risk assessments will be implemented.

Identification of Individuals with Allergies

The school will identify allergies through:

- Admission forms.
- Annual data collection.
- Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Information provided by parents.
- Information from healthcare professionals.

The Headteacher maintains a register of pupils with significant allergies.

The register includes:

- Known allergens.
- Emergency contacts.
- Medication requirements.
- Presence of Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Presence of Allergy Action Plans.

Relevant staff will have access to this information.

Individual Healthcare Plans (IHCPs)

An Individual Healthcare Plan will be developed when a pupil:

- Has an allergy that impacts school life.
- Is at risk of harm from an allergic reaction.
- Requires arrangements beyond those generally available to all pupils.

The IHCP will include:

- Details of the allergy.
- Known triggers.
- Symptoms.
- Medication requirements.
- Emergency procedures.
- Educational visit arrangements.
- Responsibilities of staff, parents and healthcare professionals.

Updated Allergy Action Plans provided by healthcare professionals will be attached to the IHCP where applicable.

Prescribed Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs)

Pupils prescribed adrenaline auto-injectors must have rapid access to them at all times.

AAIs will be:

- Clearly labelled.
- Stored in agreed locations.
- Available during lessons, breaks, lunchtimes, sports activities and educational visits.
- Monitored regularly to ensure they remain in date.

Parents are responsible for providing replacement devices before expiry dates.

Records will be maintained of all pupils prescribed AAIs and accompanying Allergy Action Plans.

Spare Adrenaline Auto-Injectors

The school maintains spare emergency AAIs in accordance with current legislation and national guidance.

Spare AAls will:

- Be stored in pairs.
- Be clearly labelled.
- Be readily accessible.
- Not be locked away.
- Be located so they can reach a person experiencing anaphylaxis within five minutes.

The school will maintain records of:

- Expiry dates.
- Regular checks.
- Usage.
- Replacement arrangements.
- Disposal arrangements following use or expiry.

Administration of Antihistamines

The school may administer antihistamines where:

- Written parental consent has been provided.
- The medication is supplied by the parent/carer.
- The medication is in its original packaging.
- Dosage instructions are provided.
- The medication is in date.

Antihistamines may be administered for:

- Diagnosed allergies.
- Hay fever.
- Mild allergic reactions.
- Conditions agreed with parents and the school.

All administration will be recorded.

The use of antihistamines must never delay emergency treatment where anaphylaxis is suspected. In cases of suspected anaphylaxis, adrenaline should be administered immediately and emergency services contacted.

Visits and Trips

Pupils with allergies will be enabled to participate fully in educational visits and residential activities.

Prior to visits, staff will:

- Review Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Undertake risk assessments.

- Ensure emergency medication is available.
- Ensure trained staff accompany the visit.
- Liaise with venue providers where appropriate.

Pupils at risk of anaphylaxis will have access to prescribed AAls throughout the visit.

Serious Incidents and Near Misses

The school will record and investigate:

- Allergic reactions.
- Anaphylaxis incidents.
- Accidental allergen exposure.
- Near misses involving allergy risks.

All incidents will be reviewed by the Headteacher to identify learning points and improve procedures where necessary.

Parents will be informed of incidents involving their child.

Information Sharing and Confidentiality

The school will manage allergy information in accordance with UK GDPR and data protection legislation.

Information will be shared only with staff who need it to keep pupils safe.

Relevant staff will have access to:

- Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Allergy Action Plans.
- Emergency contact details.
- Medication information.

Information sharing will be proportionate, respectful and focused on safety.

Raising Awareness of Allergy Safety

This policy will be:

- Published on the school website.
- Available from the school office on request.
- Included within staff training programmes.
- Reviewed with staff annually.

The school will promote age-appropriate allergy awareness amongst pupils and encourage a supportive environment for those living with allergies.

Signed: **Hannah Davies**

Date: **September 2026**

Review Date: **September 2027**

Agreed by Governors: **September 2026**