Earl Sterndale C of E Primary School

Allergy Awareness and Management Policy

This policy has been developed in line with national guidance on supporting pupils with medical conditions and reflects emerging statutory expectations under **Benedict's Law (2026)** to ensure a consistent, whole-school approach to allergy safety.

Review Date	Changes Required	Name & Position
	n/a new policy	S. Humpleby Headteacher
July 2027		

Aims

At Earl Sterndale C of E Primary School, we are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all pupils, including those with allergies. We aim to:

- Provide a safe and inclusive environment for children with allergies
- Reduce the risk of allergic reactions
- Ensure effective management of allergies across the school day
- Raise awareness among staff, pupils and the wider school community

Definition

An allergy is a reaction by the body's immune system to a normally harmless substance (e.g. food, insect stings, medication). Reactions can range from mild to severe and may include anaphylaxis, which is life-threatening.

Roles and Responsibilities

Headteacher

- Ensure this policy is implemented and reviewed
- Ensure staff receive appropriate training
- Ensure procedures are in place across school and extended provision

All Staff

- Be aware of pupils with allergies
- Follow care plans and risk assessments
- Respond appropriately in an emergency

Parents/Carers

- Provide up-to-date medical information
- Supply medication (e.g. auto-injectors) in date
- Inform school of any changes

Pupils

- Develop an age-appropriate understanding of their allergies
- Avoid sharing food
- Follow agreed safety measures

Allergy Lead

At Earl Sterndale C of E Primary School the Headteacher is the Allergy Lead.

The Allergy Lead is responsible for:

- Overseeing implementation of this policy
- Maintaining and reviewing Individual Healthcare Plans
- Ensuring staff are informed of pupils with allergies
- Monitoring training compliance
- Overseeing incident recording and review
- Ensuring spare adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) are in date and accessible

Identification and Individual Healthcare Plans

All pupils with allergies will have an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) where needed

Plans will detail:

- Known allergens
- Signs and symptoms
- Emergency procedures
- Medication required

Plans are shared with relevant staff, including:

- Class teachers
- Teaching assistants
- Lunchtime supervisors
- Wraparound staff

Risk Reduction

The school adopts a whole-school approach to allergy safety, ensuring consistent practice across lessons, lunchtimes, educational visits, EYFS and wraparound provision.

We are an allergy-aware school (not allergen-free) and take reasonable steps to minimise risks:

- Staff awareness of known allergens in classrooms
- Clear guidance on food sharing (not permitted)
- Careful monitoring during:
    - Lunchtimes
    - Snacks
    - School trips
    - Celebrations/food events
- Parents are informed of any restrictions where necessary

Food Management

- Pupils must not share food
- Staff supervising eating ensure safe practices
- Tables are cleaned before and after use
- Handwashing is encouraged before and after eating

Celebrations and Treats

- Food brought from home must comply with school guidance
- Alternatives will be provided where needed

Medication

Prescribed medication (e.g. adrenaline auto-injectors) must:

- Be clearly labelled
- Be stored accessibly but safely
- Be checked regularly for expiry dates

Staff are trained to administer emergency medication

Spare Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs)

The school will hold spare, in-date adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) for emergency use.

These are not a replacement for a pupil's own prescribed medication

They may be used in an emergency for:

- Pupils with known allergies
- Individuals experiencing a first-time severe reaction

Storage arrangements:

- Stored in a central, clearly marked, easily accessible location
- Never locked away
- Known to all staff

The school will:

- Regularly check expiry dates
- Ensure appropriate types/doses are available
- Include AAIs in risk assessments, trips and wraparound provision

Emergency Procedures

In the event of an allergic reaction:

1. **Follow the pupil's care plan immediately**
2. Administer medication (e.g. auto-injector) where required
3. Call emergency services (999) without delay if:
    - Symptoms are severe
    - Anaphylaxis is suspected
4. Contact parents/carers

All incidents will be recorded in line with school procedures.

If in doubt, **adrenaline will be administered without delay** and emergency services called.

Incident Recording and Review

All allergic reactions, including near misses, will be:

- Recorded in line with school procedures
- Reported to senior leaders
- Shared with parents/carers

Following any incident, the school will:

- Conduct a review to identify lessons learned
- Update risk assessments or care plans as required
- Adjust practice to reduce future risk

Staff Training

All staff, including teachers, teaching assistants, lunchtime supervisors, office staff, site staff, volunteers and wraparound staff, will receive regular, recorded training in:

- Allergy awareness
- Recognising the signs and symptoms of allergic reactions
- Responding to anaphylaxis
- The safe use of adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs)
- Understanding Individual Healthcare Plans

Training will be:

- Completed annually and refreshed as needed
- Provided for new staff as part of induction
- Recorded and monitored by school leaders

This reflects statutory expectations under national guidance from September 2026

Educational Visits

- Risk assessments include allergy considerations
- Medication travels with the pupil
- Staff attending are aware of procedures

EYFS (Reception) Considerations

In line with EYFS statutory welfare requirements:

- Allergies are identified prior to admission where possible
- Close supervision is maintained during eating times
- Additional care is taken due to children's age and understanding
- Visual prompts and consistent routines are used to reinforce:
    - No food sharing
    - Handwashing
- Communication with parents is frequent and responsive

Wraparound Care (Before/After School Provision)

- Allergy information is shared with wraparound staff
- Registers clearly identify pupils with allergies
- Safe food practices are followed during snacks
- Emergency medication is accessible during sessions
- Wraparound staff receive the same training and follow identical procedures to the main school day

Communication

- Information is shared with:
- Staff
- Parents
- Relevant external providers

Where appropriate, pupils are supported to understand:

- Their own safety
- Respect for others' needs
- Allergy information is clearly communicated through:

- Staff briefings
- Registers and classroom information
- Supply staff information packs

This policy is published on the school website and available to parents/carers

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or following:

- A significant incident
- Changes in guidance