Ashgate Primary School

Allergy Management Policy

and Statement of Intent

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The policy will be reviewed annually as a minimum, unless lessons learnt or new legislation, national or local guidance suggests the need for an earlier date of review.

Contact details may be updated periodically.

Approved by:	**Governing Body**
Last reviewed on:	**October 2026**
Next review due by:	**September 2027**

Related Policies

- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions and Administration of Medicines Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Educational Visits Policy

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1. Statement of Intent

Ashgate Primary School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive environment for pupils with allergies. In line with the Department for Education's statutory guidance, *Allergy Safety in Schools* (commonly known as Benedict's Law), the school adopts a whole-school approach to allergy awareness, prevention, risk management and emergency response. We will take all reasonable steps to reduce the risk of exposure to allergens whilst enabling all pupils to participate fully in school life.

This policy should be read alongside the school's **Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions and Administration of Medicines Policy**.

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2. Key Principles

- We promote allergy awareness, education and good hygiene practices.
- We recognise that it is not possible to guarantee an allergen-free environment.
- We use a risk-management approach rather than blanket bans on specific foods.
- Individual needs will be assessed and supported through appropriate healthcare plans and reasonable adjustments.
- Pupils, staff and parents share responsibility for keeping children safe.
- We are committed to meeting the expectations set out in Benedict's Law and associated guidance.

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3. Staff Training and Awareness

Ashgate Primary School is committed to maintaining a high level of allergy awareness across the school community.

During the 2026-27 academic year, staff have completed accredited Allergy Awareness and Anaphylaxis Training. Refresher training will be undertaken annually and whenever guidance or individual pupil needs change.

All staff, including teachers, teaching assistants, lunchtime supervisors, office staff, site staff, wraparound care staff, volunteers and regular visitors, **will receive allergy awareness information appropriate to their role.** Records of training will be maintained by the school and new staff will receive allergy awareness information as part of their induction programme.

Training includes:

- Recognising the signs and symptoms of allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.

- Emergency response procedures.
- Administration of Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs).
- Reducing allergen exposure and cross-contamination.
- Understanding Individual Healthcare Plans and staff responsibilities.
- Recording allergy incidents and near misses.

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4. Identification of Pupils with Allergies

The school will maintain an up-to-date allergy register and ensure that relevant staff are aware of pupils with diagnosed allergies.

Where appropriate, pupils with significant allergies will have an **Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP)** developed in partnership with parents/carers and healthcare professionals. These plans will clearly outline:

- Known allergens.
- Signs and symptoms of a reaction.
- Medication requirements.
- Emergency procedures.
- Responsibilities of staff and parents.

Relevant information will be shared with staff who have responsibility for the pupil.

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5. Reducing Risk

The school will:

- Maintain a strict **no food sharing** expectation.
- Promote handwashing before and after eating.
- Ensure tables and eating areas are cleaned regularly.
- Share relevant allergy information with staff on a need-to-know basis.
- Consider reasonable restrictions on specific high-risk foods where a significant risk has been identified.
- Work with parents to reduce the risk of allergen exposure and cross-contamination.
- Promote age-appropriate allergy awareness amongst pupils.

Parents are asked to:

- Inform the school of any allergies and changes to medical needs.
- Provide up-to-date medication and medical information.
- Support their child in understanding and managing their allergy.
- Avoid sending foods known to present a significant risk to identified pupils where possible.

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6. Food and Allergens

The school cannot monitor every food item brought onto site. However, where a food presents a clear and immediate risk to a pupil with a diagnosed allergy, staff may take reasonable action, including removing the item and informing parents.

Products labelled:

- "May contain..."
- "May contain traces of..."
- "Not suitable for..."

will not normally be removed from pupils who do not have allergies.

Where a child with a diagnosed allergy is found to have a product that may be unsuitable for them, staff may:

- Remove the item.
- Assess any immediate risk.
- Speak with the pupil in a supportive manner.
- Inform parents where appropriate.

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7. Medication

The school will:

- Ensure allergy medication is clearly labelled and readily accessible.
- Store medication safely whilst ensuring it can be accessed quickly in an emergency.
- Maintain appropriate records of medication locations and expiry dates.
- Take medication on educational visits and off-site activities.
- Ensure appropriate numbers of trained staff are available.

In accordance with current guidance, Ashgate Primary School maintains **4 spare in-date Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs)** for emergency use. These are stored in an accessible location and may be administered in accordance with national guidance where there is reasonable belief that a pupil is experiencing anaphylaxis.

The school will:

- Regularly check emergency medication.
- Monitor expiry dates.
- Notify parents when replacement medication is required.
- Maintain records of checks undertaken.

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing prescribed medication and replacing it before expiry.
- Keeping emergency contact details up to date.
- Ensuring healthcare information provided to school remains accurate.

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8. Emergency Procedures

If a pupil displays symptoms of an allergic reaction:

1. A trained member of staff will be alerted immediately.
2. The pupil's Individual Healthcare Plan will be followed.
3. Medication will be administered where required.
4. Emergency services will be called if anaphylaxis is suspected.
5. Parents/carers will be informed as soon as possible.
6. The incident will be recorded and reviewed.

999 will always be called following the administration of an Adrenaline Auto-Injector.

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9. Allergy Incidents and Near Misses

The school will record and review:

- Significant allergic reactions.
- Anaphylaxis incidents.
- Allergy-related near misses.
- Any incident involving the administration of emergency medication.

Reviews will identify lessons learned, inform future risk assessments and support ongoing improvements to allergy management procedures. Parents/carers will be informed of significant incidents involving their child.

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10. School Visits and Activities

Ashgate Primary School is committed to ensuring that pupils with allergies are able to participate fully in educational visits, residential visits and extracurricular activities.

Appropriate risk assessments will be undertaken, and necessary medication, healthcare plans and emergency contact information will accompany the pupil.

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11. Monitoring and Review

The Governing Body and Headteacher will review this policy annually, or sooner if:

- There are changes in legislation or statutory guidance.
- A significant allergy-related incident occurs.
- A pupil's medical needs change.
- School procedures require amendment.

The policy will be published and made available to parents in line with current statutory expectations.

Equality Statement

Ashgate Primary School is committed to ensuring that no pupil is disadvantaged because of a medical condition, allergy, disability, race, religion, sex, gender identity or family circumstance. Reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure all pupils can participate fully in school life.
