

Allergy Policy

Review Body	Governing Body
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1. Policy Statement (Statutory Alignment)

Glenbrook Primary School is committed to supporting pupils with allergies in line with Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Department for Education's statutory guidance *Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions*.

This policy is informed by Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014, the Department for Education statutory guidance *Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions*, and relevant NHS guidance on the recognition and management of allergies and anaphylaxis.

2. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Ensure pupils with allergies are properly supported so they have full access to education
- Reduce the risk of allergen exposure
- Ensure staff are trained to recognise symptoms and respond effectively to emergencies
- Provide clear arrangements for Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) and risk assessment
- Promote inclusion in accordance with the Equality Act 2010

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All pupils at the school
- All staff, including supply staff and volunteers
- All school activities, including trips, clubs and wraparound care
- Visitors and contractors

4. Allergies and Anaphylaxis

An allergy is a hypersensitive immune response to a known allergen. Anaphylaxis is a serious, rapid-onset, potentially fatal systemic allergic reaction requiring immediate treatment with adrenaline.

Common allergens in school settings include:

- Nuts (including peanuts and tree nuts)
- Milk
- Egg
- Wheat/gluten
- Fish and shellfish

- Sesame
- Insect stings
- Latex
- Certain Medications

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body (Statutory Duty)

The governing body will:

- Ensure this allergy policy is implemented and reviewed annually
- Ensure arrangements meet statutory guidance requirements
- Ensure risks relating to allergies are considered within the school's health and safety framework

Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- Ensure this policy is followed consistently
- Ensure staff receive appropriate training
- Ensure IHPs and allergy risk assessments are completed and reviewed

Staff

All staff will:

- Be aware of pupils with allergies and follow IHPs
- Know how to recognise allergic reactions and anaphylaxis
- Know how to access and administer emergency medication
- Be vigilant and take allergies seriously
- Prevent food sharing

Parents/Carers

Parents/carers will:

- Inform the school of allergies and provide relevant medical documentation
- Provide prescribed medication that is in date
- Participate in the development and review of IHPs
- Notify the school promptly of any changes

Pupils

Where age-appropriate, pupils will:

- Where age-appropriate, understand their allergy
- Avoid sharing food
- Inform an adult immediately if they feel unwell

6. Identification of Pupils with Allergies

- Allergy information is collected on admission and updated at least annually
- Children with Asthma will have an Asthma Action plan (supplied by parents) and a school Asthma card
- Children with allergies will have Allergy management plan (supplied by parents)
- Relevant information is shared with staff on a need-to-know basis and risk assessment completed

7. Allergy Risk Assessment (DfE & NHS Expectation)

7.1 Purpose

Allergy risk assessments identify hazards, assess risk, and set out control measures to reduce the likelihood and impact of allergen exposure. Risk assessment supports safe inclusion, not exclusion.

7.2 When Risk Assessments Are Required

Risk assessments will be completed:

- On admission or diagnosis
- Annually
- Following any allergic reaction or near-miss
- Prior to:
 - o School trips and residentials
 - o Food-based activities
 - o Special events or changes to routine

This reflects DfE expectations that schools actively plan for medical needs rather than reacting to incidents.

7.3 Areas Considered

Risk assessments will consider:

- Allergen exposure risk
- Supervision arrangements
- Food handling and eating environments
- Access to medication

- Staff training needs
- Emergency procedures
- Off-site activities and transport

7.4 Review

Risk assessments are reviewed:

- At least annually
- If medical needs change
- Following incidents or near-misses

8. Medication and Adrenaline Auto-Injectors

- Prescribed medication will be clearly labelled and easily accessible
- Medication will never be locked away
- Staff will be trained and assessed as competent before undertaking responsibility
- The school will hold spare adrenaline auto-injectors in line with DfE and NHS guidance

9. Food Management

- Food sharing is not permitted
- Packed lunch guidance is communicated to families where appropriate
- Food activities are planned with allergen awareness
- Ingredient lists are checked in advance

10. School Trips and Off-Site Activities

DfE statutory guidance requires pupils with medical conditions to be supported on trips and visits. For all trips:

- Allergy risk assessments will be included – allergies included on general risk assessment
- Medication and Allergy Management Plans (supplied by parents) will be taken
- External providers will be informed – where appropriate

11. Emergency Procedures (NHS-Aligned)

Signs of anaphylaxis may include:

- Swelling of the airway
- Difficulty breathing or wheeze
- Persistent cough
- Collapse or loss of consciousness

In line with NHS guidance:

1. Administer adrenaline immediately
2. Call 999 and state "anaphylaxis"
3. Stay with the pupil; do not allow them to stand
4. Contact parents/carers
5. Record the incident

12. Training

- Staff will receive allergy awareness and anaphylaxis training annually
- Training covers symptom recognition, emergency response and use of adrenaline devices
- This reflects statutory expectations for staff competence

13. Record-Keeping

The school will maintain records of allergic reactions, near misses, medication administration and staff training. Records will be held in accordance with the school's data protection policies.

14. Inclusion and Equality

The school recognises that allergies may constitute a disability under the Equality Act 2010. Reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure pupils are not placed at a substantial disadvantage.

15. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed:

- Annually
- Following changes to statutory guidance
- After serious incidents or near-misses