



*In the Light of Jesus
we Learn to Shine*

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Allergy Policy

Ratified by Governors

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Reviewed	October 2025
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Approval Body	Governing Body
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This policy must be reviewed every 3 years

NON - STATUTORY

We have carefully considered the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Introduction:

- This policy is concerned with a whole school approach to the health care and management of those members of the school community suffering from specific allergies.
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is aware that staff and children who attend may suffer from allergies including: food, bee/wasp stings, animals or nuts and believe that all allergies should be taken seriously and dealt with in a professional and appropriate way.
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School does not guarantee a completely allergen-free environment, rather measures that minimise the risk of exposure, encourage self-responsibility and plan for effective response to possible emergencies.
- This policy incorporates the DfE (2021) guidance: 'Allergy Guidance for Schools' and should be read in collaboration with the school's Managing Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.

Aim:

- The intention of this policy is to minimise the risk of any child or member of staff suffering an allergic reaction whilst at school.
- The underlying principles of this policy include:
 - the establishment of effective risk management practices to minimise the child, staff, parent and visitor exposure to known trigger foods and insects.
 - staff training and education to ensure effective emergency response to any allergic reaction situation.

Scope:

- This policy applies to all members of the school community including: staff, parents, guardians, volunteers, supply staff, children.
- An allergic reaction to nuts is the most common high-risk allergy and as such demands more rigorous controls throughout the policy.

Definitions:

Allergy	A condition in which the body has an exaggerated response to a substance (e.g. food or drug) also known as hypersensitivity.
Allergen	A normally harmless substance that triggers an allergic reaction in the immune system of a susceptible person.
Anaphylaxis	Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a sudden, severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction to food, stings, bites, or medicines.
Epipen	Brand name for syringe style device containing the drug Adrenalin, which is ready for immediate inter-muscular administration.
Minimised Risk Environment	An environment where risk management practices (e.g. risk assessment forms) have minimised the risk of (allergen) exposure.

Allergy Management:

Procedures and Responsibilities

- Parents are asked to provide details of allergies on admission to our school/the onset of an allergy or suspected allergy in accordance with the school's Managing Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.
- Specifically, parents will need to inform the school of:
 - The allergen (the substance the child is allergic to).
 - The nature of the allergic reaction (from rash, breathing problems to anaphylactic shock).
 - What to do in case of allergic reaction, including any medication to be used and how it is to be used.
 - Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from getting into contact with the allergen.
- Medical Staff may establish Individual Health Plans and/or risk assessments for children whose allergy requires adjustments and/or medication, in accordance with the school's Managing Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.
- Medical Staff communicate a child's allergy and/or IHP/risk assessment to all relevant staff, in line with the above policy; these details are stored centrally for all staff to access. The Medical Room Staff share with the School Kitchen any known allergies. Photographs are displayed in the School Kitchen, and food choices are monitored by the kitchen staff.
- Staff training is given to all those involved in anaphylaxis management, including awareness of triggers, and first aid procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency.
- Age-appropriate education is provided to the children with severe food allergies and to children/peers to raise awareness of how they may be able to support.

Medication

- St Joseph's recognises the variety of prescribed medication, including emergency medications such as Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs) for the management of allergies. There are three types of AAI which may be used: Epipen, Jext and Emerade. For further information on how medication is managed in schools, please see our Managing Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.

AAIs:

- Where AAIs are required this will be identified in the Individual Health Plan.
- AAIs are located in classrooms in a named/photographed box. These are out of reach of children but quickly accessible for staff.
- AAI training will be refreshed for all relevant staff when we have a child that requires this type of medication.
- Staff who have been trained in anaphylaxis treatment will take the lead in administering the AAI with the support of another member of staff.

- Upon the administration of an AAI, medical help should always be sought immediately, parents/carers must be informed and an ambulance must be called. The Headteacher will also be informed (or in her absence, another member of SLT).
- The school holds an emergency-use AAI which could be used in an emergency situation i.e. expired medication/first time anaphylactic shock. This would only be used in liaison with emergency services and parents would be informed.

Parents' Role

- In the case that snacks and lunches brought into school are provided by the child's parent, it is their responsibility to ensure that the contents are safe for the child to consume.
- Parents should liaise with staff about appropriateness of snacks and any food-related activities (e.g. cooking, science experiments) they are aware of.
- If a child has an allergy requiring an AAI, a Health Care Plan must be completed and signed by the parents.

Role of Other Parents

- Snacks and lunches provided by parents should be peanut and nut free.

Staff Role

- Staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with the relevant policies and to adhere to health and safety regulations regarding food and drink.
- If a child's records states that they have an allergy, any actions identified needs to be put in place.
- All staff will promote hand washing before and after eating.
- All staff will know the procedures at snack and lunchtime to ensure the safety of children with allergies. However, staff cannot guarantee that foods will not contain traces of nuts.
- All tables are cleaned with an approved solution.
- As part of ongoing staff training, AAI use and storage has been discussed.
- Staff may ask the parent for a list of food products and food derivatives the child must not come into contact with.
- Emergency medication will be easily accessible, especially at times of high risk.
- Staff should liaise with parents about snacks and any food-related activities; parental consent should be sought.
- The school will ensure that parents are regularly reminded of the importance of healthy lunchboxes and snacks.
- If food is provided to staff or participants, school will ensure that information is available to them about any allergens in the food. If the food is packaged on the same premises where it is provided, 'Natasha's Law' means that it must be labelled with the name of the food and a full ingredients list.

Emergency Action:

In the event of a child suffering an allergic reaction:

- The school will delegate someone to contact the child's parents.
- If a child becomes distressed or symptoms become more serious staff will telephone 999
- All adults must keep calm, make the child feel comfortable and give the child space.
- If medication is available, it will be administered as per training and in conjunction with the Managing Pupils with Medical Conditions policy.
- If parents or responsible adult have not arrived by the time the ambulance arrives a member of staff will accompany the child to hospital, in accordance with Managing Pupils with Medical Conditions policy.
- If a child with allergies shows any possible symptoms of a reaction, immediately summon help from the Medical Room Staff. School will NEVER leave a child unattended.
- School Nurses provide training to all relevant staff in the use of and administration of AAI devices.