



**Curnow**School

## Allergy and Anaphylaxis Policy

Date Last Reviewed: April 2026

Review Date: April 2028

This policy needs to be read in conjunction with the managing medical conditions policy

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| <b>Author/s</b>                   | Rob Armstrong and Sam Murray                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Review Frequency</b>           | Every 2 years                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Date approved by governors</b> | April 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Date of next review</b>        | April 2028                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Purpose</b>                    | To minimise the risk of any pupil suffering a serious allergic reaction whilst at school or attending any school related activity. To ensure staff are properly prepared to recognise and manage serious allergic reactions should they arise. |
| <b>Links with other policies</b>  | Managing medical conditions in schools and management of medication policy                                                                                                                                                                     |

The named staff members (at least 2) responsible for coordinating staff anaphylaxis training and the upkeep of the school's anaphylaxis policy are:

**Rob Armstrong**

**Sam Murray**

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## 1. Introduction

An allergy is a reaction of the body's immune system to substances that are usually harmless. The reaction can cause minor symptoms such as itching, sneezing or rashes but sometimes causes a much more severe reaction called anaphylaxis.

Anaphylaxis is a serious, life-threatening allergic reaction. The whole body is affected often within minutes of exposure to the allergen, but sometimes it can be hours later. Causes can include foods, insect stings, and drugs.

Most healthcare professionals consider an allergic reaction to be anaphylaxis when it involves difficulty breathing or affects the heart rhythm or blood pressure. Anaphylaxis symptoms are often referred to as the ABC symptoms (Airway, Breathing, Circulation).

It is possible to be allergic to anything which contains a protein, however most people will react to a fairly small group of potent allergens.

Common UK Allergens include (but are not limited to):-  
Peanuts, Tree Nuts, Sesame, Milk, Egg, Fish, Latex, Insect venom, Pollen and Animal Dander.

This policy sets out how Curnow School will support pupils with allergies, to ensure they are safe and are not disadvantaged in any way whilst taking part in school life.

## 2. Role and responsibilities

### **Parent Responsibilities**

- On entry to the school, it is the parent's responsibility to inform the school of all known or suspected allergies and intolerances through the medication form sent out. Reception staff, will then share this information with the Medical Tracker administrator for any pupils with allergies. This information will include all previous serious allergic reactions, history of anaphylaxis and details of all prescribed medication. This is then entered on to the Medical Tracker system by the Medical Tracker administrator as a medical condition for all pupils who have an allergy.
- Parents are to supply a copy of their child's Allergy Health Care Plan/Escalation Plan via email – [medical@curnowschool.org.uk](mailto:medical@curnowschool.org.uk) to school and this will be added to Medical Tracker. If they do not currently have an Allergy Health Care Plan/Escalation Plan this should be developed as soon as possible in collaboration with a healthcare professional
- Parents are responsible for ensuring any required medication is supplied, in date and replaced as necessary.

- Parents are requested to keep the school up to date with any changes in allergy management. The Allergy Health Care Plan will be kept updated accordingly on Medical Tracker

### **Staff Responsibilities**

- All staff will complete anaphylaxis training. Training is provided for all staff on a yearly basis and on an ad-hoc basis for any new members of staff.
- Staff (regular or cover classes) must be aware of the pupils in their care who have known allergies as an allergic reaction could occur at any time and not just at mealtimes. This information will be held as a medical condition on the Medical Tracker system. Any food-related activities must be supervised with due caution.
- Staff leading school trips will ensure they carry all relevant emergency supplies. Trip leaders will check that pupils with medical conditions, including allergies, that designated staff carry their medication.
- Class teachers *will* ensure that the up-to-date Allergy Escalation plans are kept with the pupil's medication.
- It is the parent's responsibility to ensure all medication is in date and the Medical tracker system will alert the parent and the medical tracker administrator if medication is approaching expiry.
- The Medical Tracker system keeps a register of pupils who have been prescribed an adrenaline auto-injector (AAI) and a record of use of any AAI(s) and emergency treatment given.
- All trained staff ensure that any reaction or near misses is recorded and reported internally through Cpoms or in accordance with RIDDOR.

### **3. Allergy Action Plans**

Allergy action plans are designed to function as individual healthcare plans for children with food allergies, providing medical and parental consent for schools to administer medicines in the event of an allergic reaction, including consent to administer a spare adrenaline auto- injector.

British Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (BSACI) Allergy Action Plans are produced by a medical professional and should not be created by school. These are a national plan that has been agreed by the BSACI, Anaphylaxis UK and Allergy UK. The allergy action plans are designed to function as an individual healthcare plan.

### **4. Emergency Treatment and Management of Anaphylaxis**

#### **What to look for:**

Symptoms usually come on quickly, within minutes of exposure to the allergen. (sometimes this can be much longer)

Mild to moderate allergic reaction symptoms may include:

- a red raised rash (known as hives or urticaria) anywhere on the body
- a tingling or itchy feeling in the mouth
- swelling of lips, face or eyes
- stomach pain or vomiting.

More serious symptoms are often referred to as the ABC symptoms and can include:

- **AIRWAY** - swelling in the throat, tongue or upper airways (tightening of the throat, hoarse voice, difficulty swallowing).
- **BREATHING** - sudden onset wheezing, breathing difficulty, noisy breathing.
- **CIRCULATION** - dizziness, feeling faint, sudden sleepiness, tiredness, confusion, pale clammy skin, loss of consciousness.

The term for this more severe reaction is anaphylaxis. In extreme cases there could be a dramatic fall in blood pressure. The person may become weak and floppy and may have a sense of something terrible happening. This may lead to collapse and unconsciousness and, on rare occasions, can be fatal.

If the pupil has been exposed to something they are known to be allergic to, then it is more likely to be an anaphylactic reaction.

Anaphylaxis can develop very rapidly, so a treatment is needed that works rapidly. **Adrenaline** is the mainstay of treatment, and it starts to work within seconds.

What does adrenaline do?

- It opens up the airways
- It stops swelling
- It raises the blood pressure

***As soon as anaphylaxis is suspected, adrenaline must be administered without delay. Action:***

- Keep the child where they are, call for help and do not leave them unattended.
- **LIE CHILD FLAT WITH LEGS RAISED** – they can be propped up if struggling to breathe but this should be for as short a time as possible.
- **USE ADRENALINE AUTO-INJECTOR WITHOUT DELAY** and note the time given. AAls should be given into the muscle in the outer thigh. Specific instructions vary by brand – always follow the instructions on the device.
- **CALL 999** and state **ANAPHYLAXIS (ana-fil-axis)**.
- If no improvement after 5 minutes, administer second AAI.
- If no signs of life commence CPR.

- Call parent/carer as soon as possible.

Whilst you are waiting for the ambulance, keep the child where they are. Do not stand them up, or sit them in a chair, even if they are feeling better. This could lower their blood pressure drastically, causing their heart to stop.

All pupils must go to hospital for observation after anaphylaxis even if they appear to have recovered as a reaction can reoccur after treatment.

## 5. Supply, storage and care of medication

Pupils medication will be signed in daily when they come into school between the parent or school transport provider and medication trained staff member and stored in the classroom, locked in a medication cabinet with the key securely stored in a separate lock box. This will ensure all staff are able to access the medication throughout the school day. Pupils must have their own **two** AAls in school at all times and that staff must carry the medication in a suitable bag/container (staff will carry a bumbag) if more than 5 minutes away from accessing the medication in the classroom and for all off site trips.

For younger children or those not ready to take responsibility for their own medication, there should be an anaphylaxis kit which is kept within 5 minutes of them, not locked away and **accessible to all staff**.

Medication should be stored in a suitable container and clearly labelled with the pupil's name. The pupil's medication storage container should contain:

- Two AAls i.e. EpiPen® or Jext®
- An up-to-date allergy action plan
- Antihistamine as tablets or syrup (if included on allergy action plan)
- Spoon if required
- Asthma inhaler (if included on allergy action plan).

It is the responsibility of the child's parents to ensure that the anaphylaxis kit is up-to-date and clearly labelled, however the SLT of the school will check medication kept at school on a termly basis through the Health and safety learning walks and through the Medical Tracker system a reminder is automatically sent to parents if medication is approaching expiry.

Parents can subscribe to expiry alerts for the relevant AAls their child is prescribed, to make sure they can get replacement devices in good time.

### ***Older children and medication***

Older children and teenagers should, whenever possible, assume responsibility for their emergency kit under the guidance of their parents. This would be through discussion and agreement with the school. However, symptoms of anaphylaxis can come on **very suddenly**, so school staff need to be prepared to administer medication if the young person cannot.

### ***Storage***

AAIs should be stored at room temperature, protected from direct sunlight and temperature extremes.

### ***Disposal***

AAIs are single use only and must be disposed of as sharps. Used AAIs can be given to ambulance paramedics on arrival or can be disposed of in a pre-ordered sharps bin. Sharps bins to be obtained from and disposed of by a clinical waste contractor. The sharps bin is kept in the Medical room.

## 6. 'Spare' adrenaline auto-injectors in school

Curnow School has purchased spare **AAIs for emergency use in children who are risk of anaphylaxis**, but their own devices are not available or not working (e.g. because they are out of date) or are experiencing anaphylaxis for the first time.

These are stored in the medical room at Curnow, Upper and Lower clearly labelled 'Emergency Anaphylaxis Adrenaline Pen', kept safely, not locked away and **accessible and known to all staff**.

Curnow School holds 6 spare pens which are kept in the following location/s:-

Medical Room at the Upper School - 2  
Medical Room at the Lower School - 2  
Karder Office - 2

The Schools Medical Tracker system will alert the Medical Tracker Administrator and the Headteacher of expiry dates and these will be replaced to ensure the AAI's are always in date.

Written parental permission for use of the spare AAIs is included in the pupil's allergy action plan.

## 7. Staff Training

The named staff members (at least 2) responsible for coordinating staff anaphylaxis training and the upkeep of the school's anaphylaxis policy are:-

Rob Armstrong  
Sam Murray

All staff will complete allergy and anaphylaxis training annually, and on an ad-hoc basis during induction of new staff, through the CCN training team.

Training includes:

- Knowing the common allergens and triggers of allergy

- Spotting the signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction and anaphylaxis. Early recognition of symptoms is key, including knowing when to call for emergency services
- Administering emergency treatment (including AAls) in the event of anaphylaxis – knowing how and when to administer the medication/device
- Measures to reduce the risk of a child having an allergic reaction e.g. allergen avoidance, knowing who is responsible for what
- Managing allergy action plans and ensuring these are up to date

Curnow School ensures that staff undertake a practical session using trainer devices (these can be obtained from the manufacturers' websites: [www.epipen.co.uk](http://www.epipen.co.uk) and [www.jext.co.uk](http://www.jext.co.uk))

#### 8. Inclusion and safeguarding

Curnow School is committed to ensuring that all children with medical conditions, including allergies, in terms of both physical and mental health, are properly supported in school so that they can play a full and active role in school life, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential.

#### 9. Catering

All food businesses (including school caterers) must follow the Food Information Regulations 2014 which states that allergen information relating to the 'Top 14' allergens must be available for all food products.

The school's menu is available for parents to view on the school website as and when changes are made. This will be updated on the website and a copy sent home in advance with all ingredients listed and allergens highlighted on the organisation website at [www.curnowschool.org.uk](http://www.curnowschool.org.uk).

CleverChefs allergens form held on file for all pupils and part of the admissions pack for new pupils. If a parent has recorded an allergen on the form the school receptionist will inform the class teacher (including a copy of the document), A copy is held on the pupils folder (R drive) and entered on to Arbor (school MIS system) for all pupils and a copy of every pupils allergen form is given to the school Cook. If an allergen has been recorded for a pupil the school cook and CleverChef manager receive a copy so that they can ensure they are able to identify the pupil and a specific tailor-made menu is created by the Chef for that pupil.

Parents/carers will be encouraged and offered to meet with the Catering Manager/Cook to discuss their child's needs.

The school adheres to the following [Department of Health guidance](#) recommendations:

- Bottles, other drinks and lunch boxes provided by parents for pupils with food allergies should be clearly labelled with the name of the child for whom they are intended.
- If food is purchased from the school canteen/tuck shop, parents should check the appropriateness of foods by speaking directly to the catering manager.
- The pupil should be taught to also check with catering staff, before purchasing food or selecting their lunch choice.
- Where food is provided by the school, staff should be educated about how to read labels for food allergens and instructed about measures to prevent cross contamination during the handling, preparation and serving of food. Examples include: preparing food for children with food allergies first; careful cleaning (using warm soapy water) of food preparation areas and utensils. For further information, parents/carers are encouraged to liaise with the Catering Manager.
- Food should not be given to primary school age food-allergic children without parental engagement and permission (e.g. birthday parties, food treats).
- Use of food in crafts, cooking classes, science experiments and special events (e.g. fetes, assemblies, cultural events) needs to be considered and may need to be restricted/risk assessed depending on the allergies of particular children and their age.

#### 10. School trips

Staff leading school trips will ensure they carry all relevant emergency supplies. Trip leaders will check that all pupils with medical conditions, including allergies, have a staff member allocated to carry their medication.

All the activities on the school trip will be risk assessed to see if they pose a threat to allergic pupils and alternative activities planned to ensure inclusion.

Overnight school trips should be possible with careful planning and a meeting for parents with the lead member of staff planning the trip should be arranged. Staff at the venue for an overnight school trip should be briefed early on that an allergic child is attending and will need appropriate food (if provided by the venue).

#### ***Sporting Excursions***

Allergic children should have every opportunity to attend sports trips to other schools. The school will ensure that teacher/s are fully aware of the situation. The school being visited will be notified that a member of the team has an allergy when arranging the fixture. A member of staff trained in administering adrenaline will accompany the pupil. If another school feels that they are not equipped to cater for any food-allergic child, the school will arrange for the child to take alternative/their own food.

Most parents are keen that their children should be included in the full life of the school where possible, and the school will need their co-operation with any special arrangements required.

#### 11. Allergy awareness and nut bans

Curnow School supports the approach advocated by Anaphylaxis UK towards nut bans/nut free schools. They would not necessarily support a blanket ban on any particular allergen in any establishment, including in schools. This is because nuts are only one of many allergens that could affect pupils, and no school could guarantee a truly allergen free environment for a child living with food allergy. They advocate instead for schools to adopt a culture of allergy awareness and education.

A 'whole school awareness of allergies' is a much better approach, as it ensures teachers, pupils and all other staff are aware of what allergies are, the importance of avoiding the

pupils' allergens, the signs & symptoms, how to deal with allergic reactions and to ensure policies and procedures are in place to minimise risk.

#### 12. Risk Assessment

Curnow School completes an individual safety plan which identifies for all new joining Pupils any known allergies and any pupils newly diagnosed. This is updated as and when necessary and formally reviewed as part of the annual review process with parents /carers.

#### 13. Useful Links

Anaphylaxis UK - <https://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk/>

- Safer Schools Programme - <https://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk/education/safer-schools-programme/>
- AllergyWise for Schools online training - <https://www.allergywise.org.uk/p/allergywise-for-schools1>

Allergy UK - <https://www.allergyuk.org>

- Whole school allergy and awareness management - <https://www.allergyuk.org/schools/whole-school-allergy-awareness-andmanagement>

BSACI Allergy Action Plans -

<https://www.bsaci.org/professional-resources/resources/paediatric-allergy-action-plans/>

Spare Pens in Schools - <http://www.sparepensinschools.uk>

Department for Education Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions -

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/803956/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/803956/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions.pdf)

Department of Health Guidance on the use of adrenaline auto-injectors in schools -

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/645476/Adrenaline\\_auto\\_injectors\\_in\\_schools.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/645476/Adrenaline_auto_injectors_in_schools.pdf)

Food allergy quality standards (The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, March 2016) <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs118>

Anaphylaxis: assessment and referral after emergency treatment (The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, 2020)

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg134?unlid=22904150420167115834>