

St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

Allergy and Anaphylaxis Policy

Recognising and celebrating the presence of Christ in one another

- ♦ St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School aims to be a positive force within the Catholic Church inspired by the life of Christ in the Gospel.
- ♦ The school is committed to the widest and fullest education with ambition for all pupils in a partnership between home, school, parish and community.
- ♦ The school aims to create a happy, ordered environment where all members feel secure and valued.



Current date approved:	September 2026
Approved by:	Full Governing Body
Date of next review:	September 2027

1. Policy Statement

At St Mary of the Angels, we are committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all pupils, including those with life-threatening allergies (anaphylaxis). We recognise that allergies are a growing clinical concern and that anaphylaxis is a medical emergency. This policy outlines our "Whole-School" approach to risk reduction, staff training, and emergency response.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

- **The Governing Body:** Will appoint a **Lead Allergy Governor** to oversee compliance and ensure the school has a robust risk management strategy.
- **The Headteacher/Senior Leadership Team:** Will appoint a **Designated Allergy Lead** to manage Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) and coordinate staff training.
- **All Staff:** Must complete annual anaphylaxis training and be familiar with the symptoms and emergency protocols for pupils in their care.
- **Parents/Carers:** Must provide the school with up-to-date medical information and ensure that two in-date Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs) are provided to the school if prescribed.

3. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

Every pupil with a diagnosed allergy will have a formal IHP. This document will include:

- Specific allergens (triggers).
- Signs and symptoms of a reaction for that specific child.
- Clear "Step-by-Step" emergency instructions.
- Storage location of the child's medication.
- A recent photograph of the child.

4. Medication & Storage

- **Prescribed AAIs:** Must be stored in a central, accessible, and unlocked location (all kept in children's classrooms in their green bags). Spare epipens are in office evacuation bag and SLT office (Mrs Murray carries this at lunchtime)
- In secondary schools, pupils should carry their own AAI, with a second "back-up" kept by the school.
- **Spare/Statutory AAIs:** Under Benedict's Law, the school will maintain a supply of "spare" AAIs (not assigned to a specific child) for use in emergencies when a child's own device fails or for children with no previous history of allergy who experience their first reaction.
- School would seek medical advice from 999 emergency services before administering an Epipen to a child with no previous history
- **Expiry Tracking:** The Designated Allergy Lead will check expiry dates monthly and notify parents at least one month before a device expires. Medical tracker supports this.

5. Risk Reduction Measures

The school will implement the following "Allergy Aware" protocols:

- **Catering:** The kitchen manager will maintain an allergen matrix for all meals. "Grab and Go" items will be clearly labelled with the 14 regulated allergens.

- **Curriculum:** Food Technology and Science departments must risk-assess every lesson involving food or chemicals.- Staff use the red class folder to refer to for allergies and risk assess for each child with an allergy.
- **The "No-Sharing" Rule:** A strict policy against pupils sharing food or drinks.-Posters in the classroom and hall, reminders to children and parents
- **Handwashing:** Mandatory handwashing for all pupils before and after lunch to prevent cross-contamination.

6. Emergency Response Protocol

In the event of a suspected anaphylactic reaction:

1. **Stay with the child:** Never leave the pupil alone or ask them to walk to the medical room.
2. **Call for Help:** Alert the designated first aider and the Allergy Lead.
3. **Positioning:** Keep the child lying flat with legs raised (unless they are struggling to breathe, in which case sit them up slightly). **Do not stand them up.**
4. **Administer AAI:** Follow the instructions on the child's specific device (EpiPen, Jext, or Emerade) immediately.
5. **Call 999:** State "ANAPHYLAXIS" clearly to the operator.
6. **Second Dose:** If there is no improvement after 5 minutes, administer a second AAI in the opposite thigh.

7. Post-Incident Review

Following any allergic reaction, the school will conduct a "Cold Debrief" to evaluate the response, update the risk assessment, and provide emotional support to the staff and pupils involved.