Earlsdon Primary School

Whole School Allergy Policy

Autumn 2026

Earlsdon Primary School recognises that allergies can be life-threatening and is committed to providing a safe, inclusive environment for all pupils with allergies. The school adopts a whole-school approach to allergy management, ensuring that staff, governors, parents, pupils and external providers work together to reduce risks and respond effectively to allergic reactions.

Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out our school's approach to allergy management, including reducing the risk of exposure and the procedures in place in case of allergic reaction
- Make clear how our school supports pupils with allergies to ensure their wellbeing and inclusion
- Promote and maintain allergy awareness among the school community Legislation and Guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's guidance on allergies in schools and supporting pupils with medical conditions at school, the Department of Health and Social Care's guidance on using emergency adrenaline auto-injectors in schools, and the following legislation

We take a whole-school approach to allergy awareness.

The nominated allergy lead is: Emily Dooley

They're responsible for:

- Promoting and maintaining allergy awareness across our school community
- Recording and collating allergy and special dietary information for all relevant pupils

Ensuring:

- All allergy information is up to date and readily available to relevant members of staff
- All pupils with allergies have an allergy action plan.
- All staff receive an appropriate level of allergy training
- All staff are aware of the school's policy and procedures regarding allergies
- Relevant staff are aware of what activities need an allergy risk assessment
- Keeping stock of the school's adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) and checking they are in date. • Regularly reviewing and updating the allergy policy.
- Supporting the school with the coordination of medication with families

All teaching and support staff are responsible for:

- Promoting and maintaining allergy awareness among pupils
- Maintaining awareness of our allergy policy and procedures
- Being able to recognise the signs of severe allergic reactions and anaphylaxis
- Attending appropriate allergy training as required
- Being aware of specific pupils with allergies in their care
- Carefully considering the use of food or other potential allergens in lesson and activity planning
- Ensuring the wellbeing and inclusion of pupils with allergies
- Assessing risk for trips, visits and liaising with parents.

Headteacher is responsible for:

- this policy is implemented consistently
- sufficient trained staff are available at all times
- allergy management forms part of school risk assessments
- emergency procedures are understood by staff
- incidents are reviewed to identify improvements

Governing body is responsible for:

- appropriate arrangements are in place to support pupils with allergies
- this policy is implemented and reviewed regularly
- sufficient resources are available for staff training
- allergy risks are considered within health and safety arrangements
- the Headteacher is supported in implementing this policy

Parents are responsible for:

- Being aware of our school's allergy policy
- Providing the school with up-to-date details of their child's medical needs, dietary requirements, and any history of allergies, reactions and anaphylaxis
- If required, providing their child with 2 in-date adrenaline auto-injectors and any other medication, including inhalers, antihistamine etc., and making sure these are replaced in a timely manner
- Carefully considering the food they provide to their children as packed lunches and snacks, and trying to limit the number of allergens included
- Following the school's guidance on food brought in to be shared
- Updating the school on any changes to their child's condition

Older pupils with allergies These pupils are responsible for:

- Being aware of their allergens and the risks they pose
- Having an understanding of their medical need and treatment.

Pupils without allergies These pupils are responsible for:

- Being aware of allergens and the risk they pose to their peers

Healthcare Plans

Pupils diagnosed with allergies will have an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP), incorporating their Allergy Action Plan where appropriate. These plans will be developed in partnership with parents and school and reviewed annually or sooner if needs change.

Early Years

Allergy management forms part of the school's arrangements for meeting the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage

Catering

The school employs our own chef and catering team. The school shares allergy information and photos of children with allergies with the catering team. If there are any updates to any children, these are shared with the catering team promptly. Furthermore, the catering service have implemented their own measures such as different coloured trays for children with allergies, intolerances and dietary requirements. As a result, catering staff should be able to identify pupils with allergy and be able to provide them with safe meals.

In addition:

• Catering staff receive appropriate training.

• School menus are available for parents to view with ingredients clearly labelled

• Where changes are made to school menus, the catering team will make sure these continue to meet any special dietary needs of pupils

• Catering staff follow hygiene and allergy procedures when preparing food to avoid cross contamination. Some product ingredient lists contain precautionary allergen labelling e.g. ‘may contain’. It is down to individual preference whether pupils consume products labelled as ‘may contain’.

We acknowledge that it is impractical to enforce an allergen-free school. However, we would like to encourage pupils and staff to avoid certain high-risk foods to reduce the chances of someone experiencing a reaction.

These foods include:

• Packaged nuts

• Cereal, granola or chocolate bars containing nuts

• Peanut butter or chocolate spreads containing nuts

• Peanut-based sauces, such as satay

• Sesame seeds and foods containing sesame seeds If a pupil brings these foods into school, the food items will be returned home unopened.

Support for mental health

Pupils with allergies will have additional support if needed through:

• Pastoral care

• Regular check-ins with their class teacher/ teaching assistant

Events and school trips

• For events, including ones that take place outside of the school, and school trips, no pupils with allergies will be excluded from taking part

• The school will plan accordingly for all events and school trips and arrange for the staff members involved to be aware of pupils' allergies and to have received adequate training Appropriate measures will be taken in line with the schools AAI protocols for off-site events and school trips.

Allergic reaction procedures

The school maintains an up-to-date allergy register which is reviewed regularly and updated whenever new information is received

- As part of the whole-school awareness approach to allergies, all staff are trained in the school's allergic reaction procedure, and to recognise the signs of anaphylaxis and respond appropriately
- All staff are trained in the administration of AAIs.
- If a pupil has an allergic reaction, the staff member will initiate the school's emergency response plan, following the pupil's allergy action plan
- If an AAI needs to be administered, a designated member of staff member will use the pupil's own AAI, or if it is not available, a school one.
- If the pupil has no allergy action plan, staff will follow the school's procedures on responding to allergy and, if needed, the school's normal emergency procedures. This will be the NHS advice on treating anaphylaxis: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/anaphylaxis/

Following administration of an adrenaline auto-injector:

- 999 will always be called immediately.
- The operator will be informed that anaphylaxis is suspected.
- A second AAI will be administered after 5 minutes if symptoms have not improved and one is available.
- Parents will be informed as soon as practicabl

Adrenaline auto-injectors

Purchasing of spare AAIs

The allergy lead is responsible for buying AAIs and ensuring they are stored according to the guidance. The spare AAIs are sourced from a local pharmacy. Storage of prescribed and spare AAIs The allergy lead will make sure all AAIs are:

- Stored at room temperature (in line with manufacturer's guidelines), protected from direct sunlight and extremes of temperature
- Kept in a safe and suitably central location to which all staff have access at all times, but is out of the reach and sight of children

- Not locked away, but accessible and available for use at all times
- Not located more than 5 minutes away from where they may be needed Spare AAIs will be kept separate from any pupil's own prescribed AAI, and clearly labelled to avoid confusion.

Training

The school is committed to training all staff in allergy response. This includes:

• How to reduce and prevent the risk of allergic reactions

• How to spot the signs of allergic reactions (including anaphylaxis)

• Where AAIs are kept on the school site, and how to access them

• The importance of acting quickly in the case of anaphylaxis

Training will be carried out by a First Aid training provider.

This policy was adopted by the Governing Body in Autumn 2026. It will be reviewed again in Autumn 2027 or sooner if required.