



WREN'S NEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Key Policy for 2026-2027

Whole School Allergy Management Policy

September 2026

Document to be read in conjunction with ***other key school policies (listed within document)***

Wren's Nest Primary School



Policy Statement

Wren's Nest Primary School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all pupils, staff and visitors. We recognise that allergies are increasingly common and that severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) can occur without warning.

The school will take all reasonable steps to minimise the risk of exposure to known allergens whilst ensuring that pupils with allergies are able to participate fully in every aspect of school life.

We recognise that effective allergy management is a shared responsibility between the school, parents, healthcare professionals and pupils themselves.

This policy has been prepared in accordance with section 34 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 and the Department for Education statutory guidance Allergy safety in schools, effective from September 2026. These protections are commonly referred to as Benedict's Law.

Under Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014, schools have a statutory duty to support pupils with medical conditions, including allergies.

Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- safeguard pupils with allergies;
- reduce the risk of accidental exposure to allergens;
- ensure staff understand their responsibilities;
- provide a prompt and effective emergency response;
- promote awareness of allergies across the school community;
- ensure pupils with allergies are fully included in all aspects of school life; and
- meet statutory safeguarding, health and safety and equality duties.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- all children;
- all employees;
- governors;
- volunteers;
- contractors;
- visitors;
- breakfast and after-school clubs;
- educational visits;
- residential visits;
- sporting activities;

Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body

The Governing Body will:

- approve this policy, ensure that it is published on the school website and review it at least annually, following a serious incident or near miss, and whenever statutory guidance changes;
- monitor its implementation;

- ensure appropriate resources are available; and
- receive reports following any significant allergy incident or near miss and assure itself that identified learning and actions have been completed.

Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- ensure this policy is implemented consistently;
- appoint Designated Allergy Leads (Mrs Ann Allport and Mrs Gemma Donaghue (SLT));
- ensure that every member of staff receives allergy awareness and emergency-response training on induction and at least annually, with completion records maintained;
- promote a whole-school approach to allergy awareness; and
- ensure suitable arrangements are in place for pupils with medical needs.
- The Headteacher retains overall accountability for allergy safety.

Designated Allergy Leads (Mrs Ann Allport and Mrs Gemma Donaghue)

The Allergy Leads are responsible for:

- maintaining the school allergy register;
- ensuring Individual Healthcare Plans are current;
- liaising with parents and healthcare professionals;
- arranging and recording annual allergy training and induction training for all teaching and support staff, supply and temporary staff, office and premises staff, class mentors, breakfast and after-school club staff, volunteers and relevant staff;
- This training will be recognising and responding to allergic reactions, anaphylaxis and acute asthma, including the correct use of adrenaline auto-injectors and emergency inhalers.
- making reasonable efforts to monitor medication held in school and to alert parents if expiry dates are approaching; however, responsibility for ensuring medication remains in date and replacing expired medication rests with parents/carers;
- maintaining emergency adrenaline auto-injectors;
- reviewing allergy incidents and identifying improvements.

One Designated Allergy Lead, Mrs Gemma Donaghue, is a member of the senior leadership team and will lead the implementation, monitoring and annual review of this policy. The Headteacher retains overall accountability.

Staff

All staff are expected to:

- know which pupils have allergies;
- understand relevant Individual Healthcare Plans;
- complete allergy training on induction and at least annually, covering allergy awareness, recognition of symptoms, emergency action, the location of medication and the practical use of adrenaline auto-injectors;
- This training will also include recognising and responding to allergic reactions, anaphylaxis and acute asthma, including the correct use of adrenaline auto-injectors and emergency inhalers.
- recognise the signs of allergic reactions and anaphylaxis;
- reduce unnecessary exposure to allergens during lessons and activities;
- supervise pupils appropriately during meal times; and
- follow the school's emergency procedures immediately if an allergic reaction is suspected.

Staff and regular visitors will be encouraged to inform the Headteacher or Designated Allergy Leads of any allergy that may require emergency arrangements. Appropriate information will be recorded and shared confidentially with relevant personnel.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are responsible for:

- informing the school of their child's allergies;
- providing two in-date prescribed adrenaline auto-injectors of the correct dose where required, together with a current Allergy Action Plan;
- ensuring medication is replaced before it expires;
- informing school of any changes to medical advice;
- providing emergency contact details; and
- working in partnership with the school to manage their child's allergies.

Children

Where appropriate for their age and understanding, pupils are encouraged to:

- understand their allergies;
- avoid sharing food;
- tell an adult immediately if they feel unwell;
- carry prescribed medication where agreed within their Healthcare Plan; and
- know how and where to obtain their prescribed devices immediately, with increasing self-management encouraged where this is safe and recorded in the IHP.
- help promote a safe environment for themselves and others.
- For children within the Early Years Foundation Stage, the school will also comply with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage for school-based providers, effective from 1 September 2026.

School Catering and Allergen Management

The school provides an in-house lunchtime catering service which is supported by a specialist Catering Management Consultant (CMC). CMC works with the school to ensure a robust and consistently applied allergen management system is in place.

At Wren's Nest Primary School, allergen management is embedded within everyday catering practice and is regularly monitored to ensure that pupils with food allergies can access school meals safely.

The school catering service will ensure:

- Compliance with the Food Information Regulations 2014 and the Food Information (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2019 for prepacked-for-direct-sale food, commonly known as Natasha's Law.
- A clear and consistent allergen management process.
- Procedures are in place to minimise the risk of cross-contamination during food preparation, service and handling.
- Accurate and accessible allergen information is available for pupils, staff and parents/carers.
- Children with identified food allergies will be identified through an agreed, proportionate and respectful system - photographs. Where a photograph is used, this will be discussed with the child and parents, risk assessed and managed in a way that protects dignity, privacy and inclusion.
- Effective communication is maintained between catering staff, school staff and parents/carers regarding dietary requirements and any changes to a pupil's needs.

The school will ensure that allergen management forms part of everyday catering practice through regular training, monitoring and review in partnership with the Catering Management Consultant.

Where required, reasonable adjustments will be made to enable pupils with allergies to safely access school meals in accordance with their Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP).

Further operational guidance can be found in the **CMC Allergen Management Procedure**, which is available in the school kitchen.

Individual Healthcare Plans

The school will assess whether an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) is required for each pupil with an allergy, taking account of the allergy's impact, the risk of harm and whether the pupil requires arrangements that are additional to or different from those normally available. Where required, the IHP will be completed with parents/carers and relevant healthcare professionals and supported by the pupil's current Allergy Action Plan.

Where a parent/carer reports an allergy, the school will seek appropriate medical evidence from a regulated healthcare professional. Necessary interim safety arrangements will be agreed immediately with the parent/carer and will not be delayed while evidence or an IHP is being obtained.

Healthcare Plans will include:

- allergens;
- symptoms;
- prescribed medication;
- emergency procedures;
- location of medication;
- emergency contacts; and
- review dates.

Plans will be accessible to staff who need them and reviewed at least annually, after an allergic reaction or near miss, before significant transitions, and whenever medical advice or the child's needs change.

Information relating to pupils with allergies, including photographs and health information, will be recorded and shared only where necessary to protect the pupil. It will be stored securely and processed in accordance with the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018. Access will be limited to staff and catering personnel who need the information, while ensuring that emergency information remains readily available.

Allergy Register

The school will maintain an up-to-date allergy register containing details of pupils with diagnosed allergies.

The register will include:

- pupil photograph;
- allergens;
- medication;
- Individual Healthcare Plan location;
- emergency contacts; and
- the current consent and authorisation arrangements for use of a spare adrenaline auto-injector.

Reducing the Risk of Exposure

The school recognises that it is not practical to create an allergen-free environment. Instead, we will take reasonable steps to reduce risk by promoting good hygiene and safe working practices.

These include:

- encouraging handwashing before and after eating;
- discouraging food sharing;
- cleaning tables before and after meals;
- supervising younger children during lunch;
- considering allergens when planning curriculum activities;

- completing risk assessments where appropriate; and
- working closely with catering providers to minimise cross-contamination.

Parents are asked not to send products containing whole nuts, peanut butter, nut-based snack bars or sesame products into school wherever possible.

Risk controls will consider ingestion, skin contact and, where clinically relevant, airborne exposure. Curriculum materials, cooking, celebrations, animals, gardening and cleaning products will be checked against individual children's risks.

Wellbeing, Inclusion and Equality

The school will support children who experience allergy-related anxiety and will ensure that they can participate safely in education, meals, clubs and visits. Allergy-related bullying, teasing, deliberate exposure to an allergen or pressure to eat unsafe food will be addressed promptly under the Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies.

Where an allergy amounts to a disability, the school will comply with the Equality Act 2010 and make reasonable adjustments. Children will be involved in decisions in a manner appropriate to their age and understanding and will not be unnecessarily singled out.

Risk Assessment

Individual allergy risk assessments will be completed where appropriate, including for:

- cooking activities;
- science investigations;
- gardening;
- animal visits;
- educational visits;
- residential trips;
- school performances;
- fundraising events; and
- celebrations involving food.

Risk assessments will be reviewed annually, following any allergic reaction or whenever a pupil's medical needs change.

Educational visits and off-site activities

Before any educational visit, residential trip, sporting activity or off-site event, the visit leader will review the child's IHP and complete an individual allergy risk assessment.

The child's two prescribed adrenaline devices will accompany them and a member of staff trained and confident in their use will be present.

The risk assessment will address food and accommodation, travel, communication, the location of emergency medication and access by emergency services. Medication will remain immediately accessible and will never be left on transport or in locked luggage.

Emergency procedure

If anaphylaxis is suspected, staff must act immediately. If in doubt, give adrenaline. Treatment and the 999 call must never be delayed while seeking parental contact.

- Administer the child's prescribed adrenaline auto-injector without delay; use a suitable spare device if the prescribed device is unavailable.
- Call 999 immediately and state clearly: "anaphylaxis". Give the school location, child's condition and treatment administered.
- Keep the child lying down with legs raised where appropriate. If breathing is difficult, allow them to sit with legs extended. Do not allow them to stand or walk.
- A member of staff must stay with the child. Send another adult to collect the second device, meet the ambulance and contact parents/carers.
- If there is no improvement, administer a second adrenaline auto-injector five minutes after the first, using the correct dose and a new device.
- Start CPR if the child becomes unresponsive and is not breathing normally, following the emergency call handler's instructions.
- The child must be transferred to hospital for medical assessment even if symptoms improve. Their used devices, IHP and relevant information should accompany them.

Spare adrenaline auto-injectors

The school will maintain suitable spare adrenaline auto-injector kits in accordance with the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, relevant regulations and current Department for Education guidance. They will be used only in accordance with current statutory conditions, the pupil's medical authorisation and applicable consent arrangements.

- Spare devices will be held in clearly labelled kits, in pairs and in the appropriate doses for the children on roll.

Spare adrenaline auto-injector kits will be stored at room temperature in the **Main School Office**. The kits will be clearly labelled, unlocked, unrestricted and immediately accessible to staff.

- Arrangements will ensure that a suitable device can reach any child within five minutes, including in classrooms, dining areas, playgrounds and sports facilities. **The Main School Office** is the designated storage location; additional kits will be provided if the five-minute standard cannot be achieved from every part of the site.
- The **Designated Allergy Leads (AMA and GD)** will record **monthly checks** of quantity, dose, condition and expiry dates and arrange timely replacement and safe disposal of used or expired school stock.
- A child's **two prescribed devices** must also be rapidly accessible at all times, including during PE, clubs, educational visits and residential trips, and must not be locked away.
- Should it be required, arrangements for prescribed and spare emergency inhalers are set out in the school's 'Supporting Children with Medical Conditions and Asthma Policy.'

Recording incidents

All allergic reactions, uses of adrenaline, serious incidents and near misses will be recorded promptly. Parents/carers, the Designated Allergy Leads and Headteacher will be informed.

A structured debrief will identify contributory factors, lessons and required actions; serious matters will be reported through the school's safeguarding, health and safety, governance and external reporting routes as applicable.

Parents/carers are also asked to report significant reactions occurring outside school where these may affect school arrangements.

This policy reflects section 34 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, the Department for Education statutory guidance Allergy safety in schools, the statutory guidance Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions, the Equality Act 2010, the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, UK food-information legislation and data-protection law.

This policy will be published on the school website, included in staff induction and annual training, communicated to parents through the school's usual communication channels and explained to children in an age-appropriate manner.

We warmly encourage parents and carers to get in touch with the school at any time if they have any concerns, questions, or would simply like to talk through any aspect of their child's allergy care or this policy.

Any concerns or complaints regarding the implementation of this policy should initially be raised with the Headteacher and will be considered under the school's Complaints Policy.

Date: September 2026

Date of review: September 2027