

ALLERGY SAFETY POLICY

September 2026

We consider equality implications before and at the time that we develop policy and take decisions, not as an afterthought, and we keep them under review on a continuing basis. All policies are approved by the governing board and reviewed annually.



But the plans of the Lord stand firm for ever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

*Psalm 33:11
New International Version*

1. Purpose and statutory basis

Northaw CE Primary School is committed to ensuring that all children with allergy are safe, included, and able to participate fully in school life. This policy sets out how we identify children with allergy, minimise risks of exposure to known allergens, and respond effectively to allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis.

This policy fulfils the statutory duty under Section 34 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, which requires LA-maintained schools and academies to have an allergy safety policy. The school has had regard to the statutory guidance Allergy Safety in Schools (DfE, 2026).

"Schools, colleges and early years settings should have a dedicated allergy safety policy... reviewed at least annually and published."

2. Leadership and accountability

The Headteacher is the school's Named Senior Leader for Allergy Safety and is responsible for:

- overseeing the implementation of this policy
- ensuring allergy safety arrangements are effective, consistent and understood
- leading or contributing to annual policy review
- ensuring lessons are learned from any serious incident or near miss
- ensuring staff training is delivered and recorded
- ensuring the governing body receives allergy-safety updates

Allergy safety is included on the school's risk register and monitored through senior leadership meetings. The governing body ensures the policy is published on the school website and readily accessible to parents and staff.

"A named member of the senior leadership team... should have responsibility for allergy safety, including driving the implementation of the allergy safety policy and contributing to or leading review of the policy."

3. Culture

3.1 Allergy Awareness Training

All staff present when pupils are on site receive annual allergy awareness and emergency response training, including:

- recognising allergic reactions and anaphylaxis
- administering adrenaline devices and emergency asthma inhalers
- calling emergency services
- locating prescribed and spare devices
- using Allergy Action Plans and Asthma Action Plans

- reporting incidents and near misses

This includes teachers, TAs, supply staff, peripatetic staff, midday supervisors, breakfast/after-school club staff, office staff, and catering staff.

New staff receive induction training before working with pupils.

“All staff present during times when pupils are scheduled to be on site should receive allergy awareness training.”

3.2 Wellbeing and Anti-Bullying

The school recognises that allergy can cause significant anxiety. We will:

- ensure children with allergy feel safe at mealtimes, during activities, and on trips
- provide reassurance through clear routines and visible safety measures
- address bullying related to allergy immediately, including teasing, exclusion, or threats involving allergens
- support new pupils with allergy through induction meetings and kitchen tours

“Bullying can range from excluding peers... to threats to force-feed known allergens.”

3.3 Minimising Risk of Exposure to Allergens

We take reasonable steps to minimise exposure to known allergens, including:

Food provided by school

- Caterers provide clear allergen information for all meals.
- Kitchen staff follow strict cross-contamination controls.
- Children with food allergy are identified using a single method: a clearly maintained and regularly updated photo list available to all relevant staff.
- Children with allergy are not segregated at mealtimes.

Food brought from home

- Parents are asked to label lunchboxes clearly.
- Food sharing is prohibited.
- For birthday treats or events, parents must seek permission in advance.

Curriculum activities

Staff must consider allergen risks in:

- cooking
- craft (e.g., wheat flour in playdough, milk/soya in glue)
- science
- music (e.g., animal fur)

- outdoor learning (e.g., bird feed containing nuts/sesame)

Airborne/contact allergens

Reasonable adjustments are made for children with severe airborne or contact allergies.

Trips and visits

Risk assessments include allergen exposure, emergency medication access, and trained staff availability.

“Staff planning any activity should consider the risk of exposure to allergens... Specific risk assessments [for] external visits or trips.”

3.4 Food Allergy Management

The school provides clear allergen information for all food served and complies with the Food Information Regulations 2014 and Natasha’s Law (2021).

“School caterers must provide information on food allergens... and prevent cross-contamination.”

We operate an allergy-aware environment rather than a “nut-free” policy.

“‘Nut-free’ policies... are not the most effective approach... we recommend an ‘allergy aware’ environment.”

4. Individual Children and Young People

4.1 Identification

The school keeps an up-to-date record of all children, staff, and visitors with allergy, including:

- known allergens
- prescribed medication
- Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)
- Allergy Action Plans / Asthma Action Plans

Information is gathered from parents, previous settings, and healthcare professionals.

“Set out arrangements for identifying individuals with allergy... and keeping a record.”

4.2 Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

Children require an IHP if:

- their allergy has a functional impact
- they are at risk of harm
- they require arrangements additional to or different from those made generally

IHPs include:

- known allergens
- emergency response instructions
- medication arrangements
- reasonable adjustments
- trip/visit arrangements
- wellbeing considerations
- review dates

Allergy Action Plans and Asthma Action Plans are attached to the IHP.

“Children... should have an Individual Healthcare Plan if they have an allergy which has a functional impact... are at risk of harm... or require additional arrangements.”

4.3 Prescribed Adrenaline Devices

The school ensures children have rapid access to their prescribed adrenaline devices at all times, including:

- classrooms
- playground
- lunch hall
- sports fields
- trips
- journeys to/from school

Children are encouraged to carry their devices where appropriate.

“Adrenaline should be administered within five minutes... devices must be able to be brought to the person within 5 minutes.”

5. School-Wide Arrangements

5.1 Spare Adrenaline Devices

The school stocks spare adrenaline devices in line with statutory guidance:

- stored in pairs
- clearly labelled
- accessible within five minutes
- kept at room temperature
- checked monthly for expiry

- replaced when used or expired
- stored in an emergency anaphylaxis kit with instructions

“Schools should ensure that no child... is more than five minutes from adrenaline devices.”

5.2 Trips and External Visits

Risk assessments include:

- allergen exposure
- safe food provision
- emergency medication access
- trained staff
- whether spare devices should be taken

“Children... should have their own adrenaline device with them... and staff trained to administer adrenaline.”

5.3 Serious Incidents and Near Misses

The school records and reports all serious incidents and near misses, including:

- what happened
- who was involved
- response actions
- lessons learned
- whether policies or IHPs require review

Parents are informed as soon as possible.

“Serious incidents and ‘near misses’ should be used as a prompt to learn lessons... Failure to learn lessons has contributed directly to deaths.”

5.4 Information Sharing and GDPR

Health information is special category data. We share it only when necessary, respectfully, and securely.

“Health information is special category data... unnecessary sharing can reduce children’s confidence.”

5.5 Awareness of the Policy

- The policy is published on the school website.

- Staff receive annual training on its contents.
- Children are taught age-appropriate allergy awareness.
- Friends of children with prescribed adrenaline devices may be taught how to seek help in an emergency.

“The allergy safety policy should be published... All staff should be aware of and understand the policy.”

6. Monitoring and Review

- Reviewed annually or after any serious incident/near miss.
- Reported to governors.
- Updated when new clinical advice is received.

7. Linked Policies

- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Food and Nutrition Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Data Protection Policy