

St Nicholas CE Primary School



Belonging, Believing, Becoming

Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Policy

Date of Policy: July 2026

Implementation Date: September 2026

Review Date: July 2027

Allergy Lead: Rebecca Woods

Link Governor: Janet Howe

1. Introduction & Ethos

At St Nicholas CE Primary School, we are committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment where every child can flourish in the light of God. We recognise that for pupils with severe allergies, the school environment can present significant risks.

This policy has been developed to comply with the **DfE Statutory Guidance (September 2026)** regarding allergy management in schools. It moves beyond "best practice" to ensure we meet our legal duty under Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 to support pupils with medical conditions.

2. Statutory Requirements

In line with the 2026 mandates, St Nicholas CE Primary School commits to:

- **Mandatory Spare AAls:** Holding school-owned "spare" Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAls) for emergency use.
- **Whole-Staff Training:** Ensuring 100% of staff (teaching, support, and office) receive annual allergy awareness training.
- **Named Accountability:** Appointing a Senior Lead and a Governor to oversee allergy safety.
- **Formal Incident Reviews:** Conducting a "lessons learned" review after any allergic reaction, no matter how minor.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Governing Body	Ensures the school remains compliant with 2026 statutory duties and monitors incident reports.
Headteacher	Appoints the Allergy Lead and ensures staff have sufficient time for mandatory training.
Allergy Lead	Maintains the Allergy Register, oversees IHPs, and ensures spare AAls are in-date.
All Staff	Must be able to recognize symptoms of anaphylaxis and know how to use an AAI.
Parents/Carers	Must provide two in-date AAls for their child and update the school on any changes immediately.

4. Care Plans

Every pupil with a diagnosed allergy must have a comprehensive care plan. Under the new guidance, these must be:

1. **Collaborative:** Created with parents and, where possible, medical professionals.
2. **Accessible:** A copy is kept in the school office, the classroom, and with the child's medication.
3. **Visual:** At St Nicholas we use a folder system in the office and kitchen with pupil photos and triggers for instant recognition.

5. Emergency Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAls)

Seconds count in an emergency.

- **Personal AAls:** Pupils with prescribed AAls must have **two** devices in school. These are stored in an unlocked, clearly labelled "Allergy Box" in their classroom or the medical room (never locked away).
- **School Spare AAls:** As per the 2026 guidance, the school stocks two spare AAls (0.15mg and 0.3mg). These are reserved for:
 - Pupils whose own device fails or is unavailable.
 - **Emergency use** on pupils who have no prior diagnosis but show clear signs of anaphylaxis (as permitted by the 2026 statutory update).

6. Risk Reduction & The School Environment

We are a **"Nut-Aware"** school. While we cannot guarantee a 100% allergen-free environment, we implement the following:

- **Catering:** Our kitchen (and external providers) must comply with **Natasha's Law** and the school's allergy policy. Meals for allergic pupils are prepared in a "Clean Zone"
- **The "No-Share" Rule:** We maintain a strict policy of no food sharing between pupils.
- **Handwashing:** Handwashing is mandatory before and after lunch to prevent cross-contamination.
- **Special Events:** For birthdays or celebrations, we request that parents do not send items into school.

7. Staff Training

Under the 2026 guidance, allergy training is no longer optional for support staff.

- **Tier 1 (All Staff):** Annual training on recognising symptoms (The "ABC" of anaphylaxis: Airway, Breathing, Circulation) and administering an AAI.
- **Tier 2 (Specific Staff):** Enhanced training for those working closely with high-risk pupils.

8. Emergency Procedure

In the event of a suspected severe allergic reaction:

1. **Stay with the child.** Send a runner/use the classroom telephone to call for the AAI and a First Aider.
2. **Positioning:** Keep the child flat with legs raised (unless they are struggling to breathe, then sit them up slightly). **Do not stand them up.**
3. **Administer AAI:** Use the child's prescribed device into the outer thigh.
4. **Call 999:** State "ANAPHYLAXIS" clearly.
5. **Second Dose:** If no improvement after 5 minutes, administer the second AAI/School Spare.

Note: Following any incident involving an AAI, a formal "Incident Review" will be conducted within 48 hours to identify any changes needed to school risk assessments.

9. Educational Trips

- A risk assessment must be completed for every trip.
- The Trip Lead must carry the pupil's medication and a copy of their care plan.
- For residential trips, the Allergy Lead will contact the venue in advance to verify catering protocols.

Review:

Member of staff responsible: R. Woods

Date policy written: April 2026

Date approved by the full Governing body: May 2026

Last Reviewed: July 2026

Date to be reviewed: July 2029