Weston Rhyn

EST Primary School 1926

Allergy Safety Policy

September 2026

Allergy Safety Policy		
		Author
Date of Policy creation: Date of Governor approval:	September 2026 7th October 2026	Suzi Bray
Date of policy review:		

1. Policy Statement
Weston Rhyn Primary School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all pupils, staff, volunteers and visitors with allergies.

The school recognises that allergies can significantly affect a child's health, wellbeing, attendance and participation in school life. Allergic reactions can range from mild symptoms to anaphylaxis, which is a life-threatening medical emergency requiring immediate treatment.

This policy has been developed in line with:

- Children and Families Act 2014.
- Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026.
- DfE *Allergy Safety in Schools* Statutory Guidance (2026).
- Benedict's Law (School Allergy Safety Bill). [gov.uk], [allergyuk.org]

The school will take all reasonable steps to minimise risks associated with allergies whilst ensuring pupils with allergies are fully included in all aspects of school life.

2. Aims
Weston Rhyn Primary School aims to:

- Promote a whole-school culture of allergy awareness, safety and inclusion.
- Identify pupils, staff and regular visitors with allergies.
- Minimise the risk of exposure to known allergens.
- Ensure rapid and effective responses to allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
- Ensure all staff receive annual allergy awareness and emergency response training.
- Maintain accurate records relating to allergies and emergency medication.
- Support pupils' physical health, emotional wellbeing and inclusion.
- Learn from incidents and near misses to improve practice.
- Meet all statutory requirements under Benedict's Law and DfE guidance.

3. Leadership and Responsibilities
Governing Body
The Governing Body will:

- Ensure the school complies with statutory requirements.
- Approve and review this policy annually.
- Ensure sufficient resources are available to implement this policy effectively.
- Monitor allergy safety arrangements.
- Ensure the policy is published on the school website and available upon request.

Headteacher
The Headteacher will:

- Ensure implementation of this policy.
- Promote an allergy-aware culture.
- Ensure staff receive appropriate training.
- Ensure emergency procedures are effective.
- Report significant incidents to Governors.

Named Allergy Safety Lead
The school's designated Allergy Safety Lead is:
Name: Suzi Bray
The Allergy Safety Lead will:

- Lead implementation of this policy.

- Maintain the school allergy register.
- Coordinate Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Monitor training compliance.
- Oversee medication arrangements.
- Ensure incident and near miss reporting is completed.
- Lead annual reviews of policy and procedures.
- Liaise with parents, healthcare professionals and relevant agencies.

Staff Responsibilities
All staff must:

- Complete annual allergy awareness training.
- Familiarise themselves with relevant healthcare plans.
- Follow agreed risk reduction measures.
- Know how to identify an allergic reaction and anaphylaxis.
- Know how to access and administer emergency medication.
- Report incidents, concerns and near misses.
- Take reasonable steps to minimise allergen exposure.

Parent and Carer Responsibilities
Parents/carers must:

- Inform the school of any diagnosed allergies.
- Provide up-to-date medical information.
- Supply prescribed medication.
- Provide current Allergy Action Plans where available.
- Replace medication before expiry.
- Inform the school immediately of any changes to their child's medical needs.

4. Creating an Allergy-Aware Culture
The school will foster a culture where allergy safety is everyone's responsibility.
The school will:

- Promote awareness and understanding of allergies.
- Encourage pupils to act responsibly around food and allergens.
- Challenge misconceptions about allergies.
- Promote inclusion and respect.
- Ensure pupils with allergies can participate safely in all aspects of school life.
- Encourage open communication between pupils, staff and families.

5. Allergy Awareness and Emergency Response Training
All staff who may be present when pupils are on site will receive allergy awareness and emergency response training at least annually. This includes teachers, teaching assistants, leaders, lunchtime supervisors, office staff, breakfast club staff, after-school club staff, catering staff, peripatetic staff, agency workers, supply staff and regular volunteers.

Contractors without responsibility for pupils are not required to receive this training.

Training Content
Training will include:

- Understanding allergies and allergic conditions.
- Understanding that allergy may co-exist with asthma, eczema and hay fever.
- Understanding the difference between allergy, coeliac disease and food intolerance.
- Understanding allergy triggers and routes of exposure.

- Recognising signs and symptoms of allergic reactions.
- Recognising anaphylaxis.
- The impact of allergies on wellbeing and mental health.
- Understanding staff responsibilities.
- How to access allergy registers and healthcare plans.
- How to reduce allergen exposure.
- Emergency procedures.
- How to call emergency services.
- How to contact parents/carers.
- How to locate and administer adrenaline auto-injectors.
- How to use emergency asthma inhalers where appropriate.
- Incident and near miss reporting procedures.

New Staff Induction
All new staff will receive allergy information and emergency procedures as part of induction before working unsupervised with pupils.

Supply staff and temporary staff will receive information regarding:

- Pupils with allergies.
- Medication locations.
- Emergency procedures.

Training records will be maintained by the school.

6. Wellbeing and Emotional Support
The school recognises that allergies can affect emotional wellbeing and may cause anxiety for pupils and families.

The school will:

- Promote an inclusive and supportive environment.
- Provide appropriate pastoral support.
- Encourage pupils to discuss concerns with trusted adults.
- Work closely with parents/carers.
- Support age-appropriate independence and self-management.
- Ensure allergy safety arrangements do not unnecessarily restrict participation.

7. Bullying, Harassment and Inclusion
The school will not tolerate:

- Bullying related to allergies.
- Deliberate allergen exposure.
- Teasing regarding medical conditions.
- Tampering with medication.
- Exclusion from activities because of allergies.

Any such behaviour will be treated seriously and managed under the school's Behaviour Policy and Safeguarding Procedures.

Pupils with allergies will be supported to participate fully and safely in all aspects of school life including clubs, sports, educational visits and residential activities.

8. Identification of Individuals with Allergies

The school will maintain an up-to-date register of individuals with known allergies.
This may include:

- Pupils.
- Staff.
- Long-term volunteers.
- Regular visitors where relevant.

Information will be gathered through:

- Admission forms.
- Medical information forms.
- Discussions with parents/carers.
- Previous educational settings.
- Advice from healthcare professionals.

The register will identify:

- Known allergens.
- Prescribed medication.
- Presence of an Individual Healthcare Plan.
- Presence of an Allergy Action Plan.
- Emergency contact information.

9. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

An Individual Healthcare Plan will be developed where a pupil:

- Has an allergy that impacts their school life.
- May be at risk of harm because of their allergy.
- Requires arrangements that are additional to or different from those generally provided.

IHPs will include:

- Medical diagnosis.
- Known allergens.
- Symptoms and warning signs.
- Preventative measures.
- Emergency response arrangements.
- Medication requirements.
- Educational visit arrangements.
- Required reasonable adjustments.
- Responsibilities of staff, parents and pupils.

Where available, Allergy Action Plans and Asthma Action Plans will be attached or referenced.

IHPs will be reviewed:

- Annually.
- Following a medical update.
- Following an allergic reaction.
- Whenever circumstances change.

10. Minimising Exposure to Allergens

The school recognises that it is not possible to guarantee an allergen-free environment. However, reasonable measures will be taken to minimise risks.

Food Provided by School
The school and catering provider will:

- Maintain accurate allergen information.
- Follow food information regulations.
- Check food labels and ingredient changes.
- Make allergen information available where required.
- Consider allergy needs when menus are planned or amended.

Food Brought into School
To minimise risk:

- Food sharing between pupils will not be encouraged.
- Staff will supervise eating areas appropriately.
- Parents may be requested not to send specific foods where significant risks exist.
- Birthday treats and special-event foods must be discussed with staff in advance.
- External catering providers must provide allergen information where food is supplied.

Airborne and Contact Allergens
Where pupils have known allergies to airborne or contact allergens, reasonable measures may include:

- Adapted seating arrangements.
- Enhanced cleaning procedures.
- Alternative resources.
- Adapted curriculum activities.
- Modified classroom environments.

These arrangements will be documented within Individual Healthcare Plans.

Curriculum Activities
Staff planning activities must consider allergy risks associated with:

- Cookery.
- Science.
- Design Technology.
- Art and craft.
- Music.
- Forest School.
- Gardening.
- Animal handling.

Where appropriate, risk assessments will be completed.

11. Prescribed Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs)
Pupils prescribed adrenaline auto-injectors must have rapid access to their medication at all times.

The school will:

- Keep a record of all pupils prescribed AAIs.
- Maintain records of Allergy Action Plans.
- Check expiry dates regularly.
- Notify parents when replacements are required.
- Ensure medication accompanies pupils during off-site visits.
- Ensure devices can be accessed within five minutes throughout the school day.

Access arrangements will extend to:

- Classrooms.
- Hall.
- Dining areas.
- Playground.
- Sports field.
- School visits.

Arrangements for transporting devices between home and school will be agreed with parents where necessary.

12. Spare Adrenaline Auto-Injectors

Weston Rhyn Primary School will maintain spare AAIs for emergency use in accordance with statutory guidance.

The school will:

- Store spare AAIs in pairs.
- Ensure appropriate dosage devices are available.
- Store devices in clearly labelled emergency anaphylaxis kits.
- Ensure devices are not locked away.
- Ensure devices can be accessed within five minutes from any area of the school site.
- Check expiry dates regularly.
- Replace used or expired devices immediately.
- Dispose of expired devices safely.
- Maintain records of inspections and usage.

Emergency anaphylaxis kits may contain:

- Spare AAIs.
- Emergency asthma inhaler.
- Spacer.
- Instructions for use.
- Emergency contact details.

13. Recognising Allergic Reactions and Anaphylaxis

Mild to Moderate Symptoms

- Itching
- Rash
- Hives
- Swelling of lips, face or eyes
- Stomach pain
- Vomiting

Severe Symptoms (Anaphylaxis)

- Breathing difficulty
- Wheezing
- Persistent cough
- Swollen tongue
- Difficulty swallowing
- Hoarse voice
- Dizziness
- Collapse

- Loss of consciousness

All suspected cases of anaphylaxis must be treated as a medical emergency.

14. Emergency Response Procedure

In the event of suspected anaphylaxis:

1. Administer adrenaline immediately.
2. Call 999 and state "ANAPHYLAXIS".
3. Request an emergency ambulance.
4. Inform parents/carers.
5. Monitor the individual continuously.
6. Administer a second AAI if symptoms persist and medical guidance indicates.
7. Ensure hospital assessment takes place even if symptoms improve.

No person experiencing suspected anaphylaxis will be left unattended.

15. Educational Visits and Trips

All pupils with allergies will be enabled to participate in educational visits and trips wherever reasonably possible.

Trip leaders will:

- Review Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Review Allergy Action Plans.
- Carry prescribed medication.
- Ensure trained staff are present.
- Complete allergy-specific risk assessments.
- Consider local emergency medical provision.
- Share arrangements with parents before departure.

Pupils at risk of anaphylaxis must have continuous access to adrenaline medication throughout the visit.

16. Serious Incidents and Near Misses

The school will maintain records of:

- Allergic reactions.
- Anaphylaxis incidents.
- Medication errors.
- Accidental allergen exposure.
- Near misses.

Reports may be submitted by:

- Staff.
- Parents/carers.
- Pupils.
- Healthcare professionals.

Following any incident or near miss, the school will:

- Investigate circumstances.
- Identify lessons learned.
- Amend procedures where necessary.
- Update risk assessments.
- Inform governors where appropriate.

- Consider whether policy amendments are required.

17. Information Sharing and Data Protection
The school recognises that allergy information constitutes special category personal data under UK GDPR.

The school will:

- Hold information securely.
- Share information only where necessary.
- Ensure relevant staff have appropriate access.
- Respect the privacy and dignity of individuals.
- Balance confidentiality with safeguarding and health and safety responsibilities.

Relevant allergy information may be shared with staff who need the information to keep a pupil safe.

18. Staff, Visitor and Volunteer Allergies
The school will take reasonable steps to support staff, volunteers and visitors who declare significant allergies.
Where necessary:

- Appropriate risk assessments will be undertaken.
- Relevant information will be shared with those who need to know.
- Reasonable adjustments will be considered.

Visitors attending events where food is provided are encouraged to notify the school of significant allergies in advance.

19. Raising Awareness of Allergy Safety
This policy will:

- Be published on the school website.
- Be available in hard copy on request.
- Form part of annual staff training.
- Be shared with relevant volunteers and regular visitors.

The school will promote allergy awareness through:

- Assemblies.
- PSHE lessons.
- Staff training.
- Parent communications.
- Awareness campaigns where appropriate.

Where agreed with parents and pupils, friends and classmates may be taught how to seek help in an emergency. This will supplement, not replace, staff emergency response arrangements.

20. Monitoring and Review
This policy will be reviewed:

- At least annually.
- Following any serious allergy incident.
- Following a near miss.
- Following significant changes in legislation or guidance.

The review process will consider:

- Incident reports.
- Near miss records.
- Feedback from pupils and families.
- Staff training outcomes.
- Changes to statutory guidance.

The policy will be approved by the Governing Body and published on the school website.