



Allergy Policy

Policy last reviewed:	September 2026
Next review due:	September 2027
Member of staff responsible:	Assistant Headteacher – Designated Safeguarding Lead
Governor's Committee:	Faith & Life

Vision Statement:	Our vision is to be a centre of excellence for learning, inspired by Christian values, where every person in our school community fulfils their potential.
Mission Statement:	Our mission is to be a deeply Christian inclusive community which values every individual as a child of God.
Values Statement:	The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its students.

Dignity	Underpinning all that we do is the core belief in the ultimate worth of each person as a child of God – precious, valued and loved by God. Dignity comes from the knowledge of our ultimate worth as human beings.
Community	Having understood our value as individual human beings, we express this value through the quality of the relationships that we share with each other. Community, living well together, is of very great importance to us as a school, as is the place we each take in the wider community locally, nationally and internationally.
Wisdom	As a school we seek to foster confidence, delight and discipline in seeking wisdom, knowledge and truth. This is achieved through the nurturing of academic habits and skills, emotional intelligence, resilience and creativity across the breadth of the curriculum.
Hope	As we prepare our students for the future we look to open up horizons of hope and aspiration, encouraging our students to embrace these with confidence and sending them out to make a difference to the world in which they live.



Allergy Policy

1. Policy Statement

At The Holy Trinity Church of England Secondary School, we are committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment in which all pupils can flourish. As a Church of England school, we recognise the dignity and value of every individual and seek to ensure that pupils with allergies can participate fully in school life without unnecessary barriers or exclusion.

The school will make reasonable adjustments to support pupils with allergies and other medical conditions so that they can access education safely and fully.

This policy has been developed in line with the Department for Education's statutory guidance "**Allergy Safety in Schools**" and the requirements introduced through **Benedict's Law**, which came into effect from September 2026. Under this legislation, schools are required to maintain a standalone allergy policy which can be found on our school website [here](#), provide staff training, hold spare adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) and implement appropriate healthcare plans for pupils with allergies.

2. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Protect pupils with known allergies.
- Reduce the risk of accidental allergen exposure.
- Ensure staff recognise and respond promptly to allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
- Promote inclusion and prevent discrimination.
- Establish clear responsibilities for staff, pupils and parents.
- Ensure compliance with statutory guidance and Benedict's Law requirements.

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All pupils.
- All staff.
- Visitors, volunteers and contractors.
- School meals providers.
- All activities undertaken on behalf of the school, including trips, visits, clubs and residentials.



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The requirements of this policy also apply to external providers, contractors, volunteers and organisations delivering activities on behalf of the school. Relevant allergy information and risk management procedures will be shared where appropriate.

4. Key Definitions

Allergy

An immune system response to a normally harmless substance.

Anaphylaxis

A severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction requiring immediate medical treatment.

Adrenaline Auto-Injector (AAI)

Emergency medication used to treat anaphylaxis, including devices such as EpiPen or Jext.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body

The Governing Body will:

- Ensure compliance with relevant legislation.
- Review this policy annually.
- Monitor implementation through safeguarding and health and safety reporting.

Executive Headteacher

The Executive Headteacher will ensure:

- Adequate resources are available.
- Staff receive appropriate training.
- Procedures are monitored and reviewed.

Designated Allergy Lead

In accordance with Benedict's Law guidance, the school will appoint a named senior leader responsible for allergy safety.

The Designated Allergy Lead for Holy Trinity C of E Secondary School is Mr Andy Webster (Assistant Headteacher – Designated Safeguarding Lead).

The Deputy Designated Allergy Lead is Mrs Lisa Bettinson (Student Services Manager).



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The Allergy Lead will:

- Oversee implementation of this policy.
- Maintain the allergy register.
- Coordinate staff training.
- Review incidents and near misses.
- Ensure healthcare plans are current.
- Monitor emergency medication supplies.

Staff

All staff must:

- Complete allergy awareness training.
- Familiarise themselves with pupils' allergy needs.
- Follow healthcare plans.
- Act immediately in an emergency.
- Report incidents and near misses.

Parents and Carers

Parents are responsible for:

- Informing the school of any allergy diagnosis.
- Providing medical evidence where appropriate.
- Supplying prescribed medication as required.
- Providing up-to-date emergency contact details.
- Informing the school promptly of any changes.

Pupils with Allergies

Pupils with allergies are encouraged to:

- Understand their allergens and associated risks.
- Carry prescribed medication where agreed within their Individual Healthcare Plan.
- Inform a member of staff immediately if they believe they have been exposed to an allergen or begin experiencing symptoms.
- Avoid sharing food or drinks.



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All Pupils

All pupils should:

- Be aware that allergies can pose serious health risks.
- Avoid sharing food and drinks.
- Follow staff instructions regarding allergy safety.
- Not share food, drinks, utensils, water bottles, lip balms, cosmetics, or other personal items. Sharing such items may increase the risk of accidental exposure to allergens.

The school recognises the increasing independence of older students and will support age-appropriate self-management of allergies and medication, whilst maintaining suitable safeguards and oversight.

The school will promote allergy awareness through assemblies, REACH and other appropriate curriculum opportunities.

6. Identification of Pupils with Allergies

The school will:

- Maintain a central allergy register.
- Record allergy information on the school's management system.
- Ensure relevant staff have access to appropriate information.
- Display allergy alerts where necessary, whilst maintaining confidentiality.

Where appropriate, pupils with significant allergies will have an:

- Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP).
- Allergy Action Plan supplied by healthcare professionals.

The allergy register will include:

- Known allergens.
- Nature and severity of reactions.
- Medication prescribed.
- Details of Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Parental consent for use of spare Adrenaline Auto-Injectors.
- Emergency contact details.

These plans will be reviewed at least annually or whenever needs change.



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Where pupils use wearable medical technology to support the management of their allergy or medical condition, suitable arrangements will be implemented to ensure safe and effective use while maintaining safeguarding and privacy requirements.

Individual Healthcare Plans will be developed where a pupil's allergy requires arrangements that are additional to or different from those generally provided for all pupils.

7. Staff Training

All staff who are likely to be on site while pupils are present will receive allergy awareness and anaphylaxis response training.

Training will include:

- Difference between allergy, intolerance and coeliac disease.
- How allergic reactions occur.
- Impact on wellbeing.
- Use of action plans.
- Understanding food and non-food allergies.
- Recognition of signs and symptoms.
- Emergency procedures.
- Administration of AAIs.
- Calling emergency services.
- Incident reporting requirements.

Training will be:

- Undertaken during induction.
- Refreshed annually.
- Recorded centrally.

8. Prevention and Risk Reduction

The school recognises that creating completely allergen-free environments is generally impractical and cannot guarantee safety. Therefore, the school adopts a risk-management approach.

Measures include:

- Appropriate communication with catering providers.
- Careful consideration of curriculum activities involving food.
- Allergy awareness education where appropriate.



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- Handwashing before and after eating.
- Cleaning of eating areas.
- Risk assessments for events and educational visits.
- Consideration of allergens during reward activities and celebrations.

The school will not routinely describe itself as "nut-free" but will take reasonable steps to minimise risk where pupils have identified allergies.

9. Catering Arrangements

The school and catering provider will:

- Make allergen information available.
- Follow food safety requirements.
- Consider reasonable adjustments for pupils with allergies.
- Liaise with families where higher-risk allergies exist.

Pupils must not share food.

The school will work with catering providers to ensure allergen information is available and communicated in accordance with current food safety legislation.

10. Educational Visits and Residential

All visits must include consideration of allergy risks.

Visit leaders will:

- Review healthcare plans.
- Ensure medication accompanies pupils.
- Confirm staff understand emergency procedures.
- Liaise with venues where required.
- Trained staff will carry spare AAIs on educational visits where required.
- Allergy information will form part of pre-visit planning and risk assessments.

At least one suitably trained member of staff will accompany pupils with severe allergies.

11. Emergency Response

If a pupil displays symptoms of anaphylaxis:

1. Administer an AAI immediately.



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2. Call 999 and state "anaphylaxis."
3. Contact parents/carers.
4. Administer a second AAI if symptoms continue and medical advice indicates this is required.
5. Ensure the pupil is monitored continuously until emergency services arrive.

When in doubt, administer adrenaline first and seek emergency medical help immediately.

No pupil who has received adrenaline will be sent home without medical assessment.

Arrangements will be in place to ensure that emergency allergy medication remains accessible during emergency evacuations, partial lockdown procedures and any other situations where normal access to medical rooms or storage locations may be restricted.

Where prescribed, parents/carers must ensure two in-date adrenaline auto-injectors are available for their child in school.

12. Spare Adrenaline Auto-Injectors

In line with Benedict's Law, the school will maintain spare in-date AAIs available for emergency use.

The school will:

- Store AAIs in accessible locations.
- Ensure they can be accessed quickly.
- Check expiry dates regularly.
- Replace devices before expiry.
- Maintain records of inspections and use.

Spare AAIs will be:

- Stored at room temperature.
- Protected from direct sunlight.
- Readily accessible.
- Not routinely locked away.
- Clearly labelled and checked regularly.

These devices may be used in an emergency in accordance with national guidance or:

- If a pupil's own device is unavailable.
- If it misfires.
- If no prescribed device is immediately accessible.



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13. Recording, Reporting and Near Misses

The school will record:

- Allergic reactions.
- Administration of AAIs.
- Near misses.
- Lessons learned following incidents.

Following any serious incident:

- A review will be undertaken which will look at:
 - The effectiveness of preventative measures.
 - Staff response times and actions taken.
 - Availability and accessibility of emergency medication.
 - Communication between staff, parents and external agencies.
 - Any actions required to reduce future risk.
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- Actions identified will be implemented.
 - Outcomes will be shared with relevant staff.

This process supports continual improvement in allergy safety.

All allergy-related incidents and near misses will be reviewed by the Allergy Lead alongside the Student Services Manager & the First Aid Manager. Any required actions will be communicated to relevant staff and incorporated into future training.

14. Confidentiality and Information Sharing

The school will:

- Handle medical information in accordance with data protection legislation.
- Share information only on a need-to-know basis.
- Ensure staff have sufficient information to protect pupils safely.

15. Inclusion, Wellbeing and Anti-Bullying

The school recognises that pupils with severe allergies may experience anxiety, isolation or concerns about participation in school activities. Appropriate pastoral support will be offered where required and concerns relating to wellbeing will be addressed through the school's pastoral systems.

No pupil should be excluded from activities solely because they have an allergy.



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The school will:

- Promote understanding of allergies.
- Challenge stigma and misconceptions.
- Address any bullying related to medical conditions through the Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy.
- Make reasonable adjustments to support participation.

16. Monitoring and Review

The policy will be reviewed annually and following any significant incident or change in legislation.

The Allergy Lead will undertake an annual review of:

- Staff training records.
- Healthcare plans.
- Allergy incidents and near miss records.
- Availability of emergency medication.
- Policy effectiveness.
- Educational visits procedures.

Findings will inform ongoing improvements to allergy safety arrangements.

Linked Policies

- Children with Medical Needs who Cannot Attend School
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Educational & Offsite Activities Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Managing Medicines in School Policy