ABBEY HEY PRIMARY ACADEMY

Allergy Safety Policy 2026-2027

Approved by: Local Governing Body
Policy Lead: TRACEY SHORT
Named Senior Leader for Allergy Safety: TRACEY SHORT
Review Date: September 2027 (or sooner following any incident or significant change in guidance)
Applicable to: All pupils, staff, visitors, contractors, volunteers and academy users

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1. Policy Statement

Abbey Hey Primary Academy is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all pupils, staff and visitors with allergies. The academy recognises that allergies can have a significant impact on health, wellbeing, attendance and educational outcomes.

This policy complies with:

- Section 34 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 ("Benedict's Law"), which requires academies to have an Allergy Safety Policy.
- Department for Education statutory guidance: *Allergy Safety in Schools* (2026).
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions at School guidance.
- Equality Act 2010.
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.
- UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018.

The academy adopts a whole-school approach to allergy management while recognising that it is not possible to guarantee an allergen-free environment.

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2. Aims

The academy will:

- Identify pupils and staff with allergies promptly.
- Minimise the risk of exposure to known allergens.
- Ensure rapid and effective responses to allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
- Promote emotional wellbeing of pupils with allergies.
- Ensure all staff are appropriately trained.
- Enable pupils with allergies to participate fully in all aspects of academy life.
- Learn from incidents and near misses.

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3. Roles and Responsibilities

Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- Ensure effective implementation of this policy.
- Appoint a named senior leader responsible for allergy safety.
- Ensure sufficient staff training.
- Ensure compliance with statutory requirements.

Named Allergy Safety Lead

The Allergy Safety Lead will:

- Maintain the allergy register.
- Coordinate staff training.
- Monitor Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs).
- Review incidents and near misses.
- Ensure emergency medication remains in date.
- Lead annual policy review.

Staff

All staff must:

- Complete annual allergy awareness training.
- Follow Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Know how to recognise allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
- Respond quickly in emergencies.
- Promote inclusion and minimise risk.
- Report incidents and near misses.

Parents and Carers

Parents are responsible for:

- Informing the academy of allergies.
- Providing up-to-date medical information.
- Supplying prescribed medication.
- Providing replacement medication before expiry.
- Informing the academy of any changes in medical needs.

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4. Identification of Allergies

The academy will identify allergies through:

- Admission procedures.
- Annual data collection.
- Healthcare professional documentation.
- Communication with parents and carers.
- Information from previous educational settings.

The academy will maintain a confidential Allergy Register containing:

- Pupil name.
- Photograph.
- Known allergens.
- Severity of allergy.
- Medication prescribed.
- Location of medication.
- Individual Healthcare Plan status.
- Allergy Action Plan status.

This register will be accessible to relevant staff while maintaining appropriate confidentiality.

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5. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

An Individual Healthcare Plan will be developed where:

- The allergy has a significant impact on school life;
- There is a risk of harm; and
- Additional arrangements are required beyond normal academy procedures.

IHPs will include:

- Allergy details.
- Symptoms and warning signs.
- Medication requirements.
- Emergency procedures.
- Responsibilities of staff.
- Reasonable adjustments.
- Arrangements for educational visits.

Plans will be reviewed:

- Annually;
- Following any allergic reaction;
- Following medical advice; or
- Whenever circumstances change.

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6. Staff Training

All staff who may supervise pupils will receive annual allergy awareness and emergency response training. This includes:

- Teachers.
- Teaching assistants.
- Lunchtime staff.
- Office staff.
- Wraparound care staff.
- Sports coaches.
- Supply staff.
- Volunteers.

Training will cover:

- Understanding allergies and allergic conditions.
- Recognition of symptoms.
- Recognition of anaphylaxis.
- Emergency procedures.
- Location of medication.
- Use of adrenaline auto-injectors.
- Use of asthma medication where relevant.
- Academy procedures and reporting systems.

New staff will receive allergy information as part of their induction.

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7. Wellbeing and Inclusion

Abbey Hey Primary Academy recognises the emotional impact allergies can have on pupils and families.

The academy will:

- Promote a culture of understanding and inclusion.
- Challenge myths and misconceptions.
- Prevent bullying related to allergies.
- Encourage pupils to seek support when concerned.
- Work closely with families to reduce anxiety and build confidence.

Any allergy-related bullying will be treated seriously under the Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy.

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8. Minimising Risk

While the academy cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment, reasonable steps will be taken to reduce risk.

These include:

Classrooms

- Staff will consider allergens when planning activities.
- Alternative resources will be provided where necessary.
- Handwashing routines will be promoted.

Food and Catering

- The academy will work with catering providers to identify allergens within school meals.
- Food information will be available in line with legal requirements.
- Staff supervising dining areas will be aware of pupils with severe allergies.

Food Brought from Home

Parents are requested:

- Not to send foods that are known to pose a significant risk to pupils with severe allergies where alternative options are available.
- To follow any specific class guidance issued regarding severe allergies.

The academy will not implement blanket food bans unless supported by a specific risk assessment.

Activities

Staff must assess allergy risks when planning:

- Cooking activities.
- Science lessons.
- Art and craft work.
- Forest School activities.

- Animal encounters.
- Educational visits.

Specific risk assessments will be completed where necessary.

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9. Emergency Medication

Prescribed Medication

Pupils prescribed adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) must have rapid access to them at all times. The academy aims to ensure access within five minutes of need.

Medication may be:

- Carried by the pupil where appropriate.
- Stored in classrooms.
- Stored centrally if agreed within the IHP.

Staff will monitor expiry dates and notify parents when replacements are required.

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10. Spare Adrenaline Auto-Injectors

In accordance with current legislation and guidance, Abbey Hey Primary Academy maintains emergency spare adrenaline auto-injectors.

The academy will:

- Store spare devices in clearly marked emergency kits.
- Store devices in pairs.
- Ensure devices are readily accessible and not locked away.
- Check expiry dates termly.
- Replace devices promptly after use or expiry.

Emergency kits may also contain:

- Instructions for use.
- Emergency contact information.
- Asthma inhaler and spacer (where required).

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11. Emergency Procedures

Where an allergic reaction occurs:

Mild Reaction

Staff will:

- Follow the pupil's Allergy Action Plan.
- Monitor symptoms.
- Inform parents/carers.
- Record the incident.

Suspected Anaphylaxis

Staff will:

1. Administer adrenaline immediately.
2. Call 999 and state "ANAPHYLAXIS".
3. Contact parents/carers.
4. Monitor the pupil continuously.
5. Administer a second adrenaline dose if advised or required.
6. Ensure the pupil travels to hospital even if symptoms appear resolved.

No pupil who has received adrenaline will remain in school that day.

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12. Educational Visits and Off-Site Activities

Pupils with allergies will be fully included wherever safely possible.

Before visits, staff will:

- Review the IHP.
- Complete individual risk assessments.
- Ensure emergency medication is available.
- Identify trained staff attending.
- Consider food provision and allergen risks.
- Liaise with venues where necessary.

For residential visits, additional planning will be undertaken.

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13. Recording Incidents and Near Misses

All allergic reactions, medication administration and near misses will be recorded.

Records will include:

- Date and time.
- Individual affected.
- Suspected allergen.

- Actions taken.
- Outcome.
- Recommended improvements.

The Allergy Safety Lead will review incidents to identify trends and improve practice.

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14. Information Sharing and Confidentiality

Information regarding allergies will be shared on a need-to-know basis.

Relevant information may be shared with:

- Teachers.
- Teaching assistants.
- Lunchtime supervisors.
- First aiders.
- Visit leaders.

All health information will be handled in accordance with UK GDPR requirements.

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15. Visitors and Contractors

Visitors and contractors must:

- Follow academy health and safety procedures.
- Inform the academy where activities could introduce allergens.
- Follow any allergy control measures in place.

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16. Raising Awareness

The academy will raise awareness through:

- Staff training.
- Parent communications.
- Health education.
- Pupil assemblies and discussions.
- Information on the academy website.

The policy will be published on the academy website and available upon request.

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17. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed:

- Annually;
- Following any significant allergic incident;
- Following changes in legislation or guidance; or
- Following recommendations from governors or external agencies.

The governing body will monitor compliance and ensure statutory duties under Benedict's Law are met.

Policy Approved By: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

Review Date: September 2027