

Allergy Safety Policy

This policy also applies to EYFS pupils and children in our Nursery Provision

1. Policy Statement

Bedford Greenacre Independent School is committed to safeguarding the health and wellbeing of all pupils. The school recognises that allergies and anaphylaxis are serious medical conditions which may be life-threatening if not managed appropriately.

This Allergy Safety Policy sets out the whole-school approach to the identification, management and emergency response to allergies, in accordance with Benedict's Law (2026) and the Department for Education's statutory allergy guidance effective from September 2026. The school will take all reasonable steps to provide a safe, inclusive environment in which pupils with allergies can participate fully in school life.

2. Legal Framework

This policy is informed by and complies with:

- Benedict's Law (2026) – statutory allergy safety requirements for schools
- DfE statutory guidance: *Supporting Children and Young People with Medical Conditions and Allergy* (September 2026)
- Equality Act 2010
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

3. Aims

The school aims to:

- Protect pupils at risk of allergic reactions and anaphylaxis
- Ensure all staff are trained and confident in recognising and responding to allergic reactions
- Put in place clear systems for allergy management and emergency response
- Work in partnership with parents, pupils and healthcare professionals
- Promote inclusion whilst reducing avoidable risk

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Principal

The Principal has overall responsibility for ensuring this policy is implemented effectively across the school.

Designated Allergy Lead

The Designated Allergy Lead is responsible for:

- Maintaining an up-to-date allergy register
- Ensuring Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) and Allergy Action Plans are in place
- Monitoring staff training compliance
- Ensuring emergency medication is available and in date
- Reviewing incidents and updating risk management measures

Staff

All staff have a responsibility to:

- Be familiar with pupils' allergy needs relevant to their role
- Follow this policy and individual care plans
- Respond promptly and appropriately in the event of an allergic reaction

5. Identification and Individual Healthcare Plans

- Parents must notify the school of any diagnosed or suspected allergies
- Pupils at risk of anaphylaxis will have an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) and Allergy Action Plan in place
- Plans will be developed with parents and medical advice where appropriate
- IHPs will be reviewed annually or following an allergic incident

6. Training

- All staff, including teaching, support, peripatetic, lunchtime, transport and volunteer staff, will receive allergy awareness and anaphylaxis training
- Training will include recognition of symptoms, emergency procedures and the use of adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs)
- Training will be refreshed annually and recorded

7. Emergency Medication

- The school will hold spare, in-date adrenaline auto-injectors in clearly identified locations
- AAIs may be used in an emergency for any pupil or adult experiencing anaphylaxis, in line with statutory guidance
- Staff will always follow the pupil's Allergy Action Plan and seek emergency medical assistance

8. Risk Management and Day-to-Day Practice

The school will:

- Communicate allergy information appropriately to relevant staff
- Take a proportionate approach to food and allergen management
- Undertake risk assessments for activities, practical lessons, clubs and trips
- Promote an inclusive environment without unnecessary exclusion

The school cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment, but will implement robust and sensible control measures.

9. Educational Visits and Off-Site Activities

All educational visits will:

- Include allergy considerations in the risk assessment
- Ensure trained staff and emergency medication are accessible
- Carry copies of relevant IHPs and Action Plans

10. Managing Allergic Incidents

- All allergic reactions and near-misses will be recorded
- Parents will be informed as soon as practicable
- Serious incidents will be reviewed to identify learning and improve practice

11. Partnership with Parents and Pupils

Bedford Greenacre Independent School recognises the importance of strong home-school communication. Parents will be involved in care planning, and pupils will be supported to understand their allergies in an age-appropriate manner.

12. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be:

- Reviewed annually by the Principal and Governing Body
- Updated following any changes to legislation or guidance
- Reviewed after any serious allergic incident