Allergy Safety Policy

2026-2027

Supporting pupils with allergies, anaphylaxis risk, asthma and allergy-related conditions

Barmby Moor and Garton on the Wolds Federation

Date Written	August 2026
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To be presented to the Governing Body	October 2026
Date of Next Review	August 2028

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1. Purpose

At Barmby Moor and Garton on the Wolds we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare, health and wellbeing of all pupils, including those with allergies and allergy-related conditions.

This policy sets out how the school will:

- Identify and support pupils with allergies.
- Reduce the risk of exposure to known allergens.
- Promote inclusion and participation.
- Respond effectively to allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
- Ensure staff are appropriately trained.
- Meet statutory requirements relating to allergy safety and supporting pupils with medical conditions.

This policy should be read alongside:

- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Data Protection Policy

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All pupils.
- All staff.
- Governors.
- Volunteers.
- Agency and supply staff.
- Visitors.
- Contractors who work directly with pupils.

3. Definitions

Allergy

An allergy is a medical condition in which the body's immune system reacts abnormally to substances that are normally harmless, known as allergens. Allergies may relate to foods, medicines, insect stings, contact allergens or airborne allergens.

Anaphylaxis

Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction affecting the airway, breathing and/or circulation. Anaphylaxis requires an immediate emergency response and prompt administration of adrenaline.

Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP)

An Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) is a school document describing the arrangements that will be put in place to support a pupil with an allergy whilst they are in education. It sets out the support, adaptations and emergency procedures required to keep the pupil safe, included and able to access education.

Allergy Action Plan

An Allergy Action Plan is a clinical document issued by a healthcare professional. It provides instructions for recognising and responding to allergic reactions and anaphylaxis, including the use of prescribed emergency medication. Allergy Action Plans will normally be attached to a pupil's Individual Healthcare Plan where they have been provided.

Asthma Action Plan

An Asthma Action Plan is a clinical document issued by a healthcare professional which provides guidance on a pupil's asthma, triggers, medication, symptoms and emergency response arrangements. Where relevant, Asthma Action Plans will be attached to a pupil's Individual Healthcare Plan.

Near Miss

A near miss is an event relating to allergy safety that did not result in harm but had the clear potential to do so. Near misses will be recorded, reviewed and used to identify learning and improvements to policy, practice and procedures.

Serious Incident

A serious incident is any event relating directly to an allergy or medical condition in which a child, member of staff or visitor is harmed or placed at significant risk of harm, including incidents requiring emergency medication, emergency services attendance or urgent medical intervention.

4. Leadership and Governance

The Governing Body recognises its responsibility for ensuring effective arrangements are in place to support pupils with allergies and to minimise allergy-related risks.

The Headteacher will appoint a named member of the Senior Leadership Team to act as the Allergy Safety Lead.

The Allergy Safety Lead will:

- Oversee implementation of this policy.
- Maintain oversight of pupils with allergies.
- Coordinate staff training.
- Monitor incidents and near misses.
- Ensure appropriate Individual Healthcare Plans are in place.
- Liaise with healthcare professionals, families and catering providers.
- Lead policy review and improvement activity.

The Governing Body will receive periodic reports regarding:

- Allergy safety arrangements.
- Significant incidents.
- Near misses.
- Training compliance.
- Policy review outcomes.

5. Identification of Pupils with Allergies

We will maintain an up-to-date register of pupils with known allergies.

Information may be gathered from:

- Admissions information.
- Parents/carers.
- Previous educational settings.
- Healthcare professionals.
- Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Allergy Action Plans and Asthma Action Plans.

We will also seek to identify relevant allergy information relating to staff, volunteers and regular visitors where appropriate.

6. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

An Individual Healthcare Plan will normally be developed where:

- A pupil's allergy has a functional impact on school life.
- The pupil is at risk of harm because of the allergy.
- Arrangements are required which are additional to or different from those ordinarily available.

The IHP will normally include:

- Known allergens.
- Signs and symptoms.
- Emergency procedures.
- Medication arrangements.
- Meal-time arrangements.

- Educational visits arrangements.
- Risk reduction measures.
- Responsible staff.
- Review arrangements.

IHPs will be reviewed:

- At least annually.
- Following any significant change.
- Following any serious incident or near miss.
- When updated medical advice is received.

7. Allergy Awareness and Staff Training

All staff present when pupils are on site will receive allergy awareness and emergency response training at least annually. This training will be recorded.

Training will include:

- Understanding allergies and allergic conditions.
- Recognising allergic reactions.
- Recognising anaphylaxis.
- Emergency procedures.
- Administration of adrenaline.
- Use of emergency asthma medication.
- Understanding Individual Healthcare Plans and Action Plans.
- Risk reduction measures.
- Incident reporting procedures.

Appropriate induction arrangements will be in place for:

- New staff.
- Temporary staff.
- Agency staff.
- Regular volunteers.
- Supply staff.

8. Wellbeing, Inclusion and Bullying

The potential impact upon a pupil's physical health, emotional wellbeing, confidence and participation in school life that allergies can have is recognised.

As such, we will actively promote inclusion and ensure pupils with allergies are able to participate as fully as possible in all aspects of school life.

Bullying, intimidation, exclusion or threatening behaviour relating to allergies will not be tolerated. This includes:

- Deliberate exposure to allergens.

- Threats involving allergens.
- Mocking or ridiculing medical conditions.
- Exclusion from activities because of allergies.

9. Minimising Allergy Risks

Reasonable steps to minimise exposure to known allergens will be taken.

This includes:

- Food provided by the school.
- Food brought onto site.
- Educational activities.
- Science activities.
- Art and craft activities.
- Food technology activities.
- Animal-related activities.
- Educational visits and residential visits.

Staff planning activities must consider potential allergen exposure and take appropriate precautions.

10. Food Allergy Management

We adopt a proactive an allergy-aware approach.

While the school may discourage particular allergens from being brought onto site where appropriate, it recognises that no environment can be guaranteed to be completely free of allergens. The school's approach therefore focuses on awareness, risk reduction, effective communication and robust emergency response arrangements.

Accordingly, we will:

- Work collaboratively with catering providers, parents/carers, pupils and relevant professionals to identify, minimise and manage risks associated with food allergies.
- Ensure allergen information is available and accessible in accordance with food information legislation and catering provider arrangements.
- Take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of allergen exposure and cross-contamination in food preparation, handling and serving arrangements.
- Discourage the sharing or trading of food, drinks, utensils and food containers between pupils.
- Ensure that activities involving food, including cooking, food technology, celebrations, fundraising activities and curriculum activities, take account of known allergies and associated risks.

- Consider allergy risks when planning educational visits, residential visits and off-site activities involving food.
- Ensure that reasonable adjustments relating to food allergy are recorded and managed through Individual Healthcare Plans where appropriate.
- Promote an inclusive approach which enables pupils with allergies to participate fully and safely in school life.

Children and young people with allergies should be able to access meals, snacks and dining arrangements alongside their peers wherever it is safe and appropriate to do so. The school will seek to manage risks through effective planning, communication, supervision and risk reduction measures rather than through routine segregation or exclusion

Where food is brought into school by pupils, parents/carers, staff or visitors, individuals are expected to cooperate with reasonable requests made by the school to support the safety and wellbeing of pupils with known allergies.

Where a pupil has a significant allergy, specific arrangements to support their safety and inclusion will be documented through their Individual Healthcare Plan and communicated to relevant staff on a need-to-know basis

11. Medication and Prescribed Adrenaline Devices

Pupils prescribed adrenaline devices should have rapid access to them at all times.

This includes:

- Classrooms.
- Playgrounds.
- Sports fields.
- Lunch and break times.
- Educational visits.
- Residential visits.
- Travel associated with school activities.

We will maintain records relating to prescribed medication, expiry dates, consent arrangements and associated Action Plans.

12. Spare Adrenaline Devices

We will maintain spare adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) in accordance with statutory guidance.

Spare devices will:

- Be clearly labelled.
- Be readily accessible.
- Not be locked away.
- Be stored in pairs.

- Be checked regularly.
- Be replaced promptly when used or expired.

Emergency asthma inhalers will also be maintained where appropriate.

13. Emergency Response

All staff must respond promptly to concerns regarding allergic reactions and be familiar with the pupil's Individual Healthcare Plan, Allergy Action Plan and any emergency procedures.

Where anaphylaxis is suspected:

- Adrenaline will be administered immediately and without delay.
- Emergency services will be contacted via 999 immediately after adrenaline has been administered.
- Parents/carers will be informed as soon as reasonably practicable.
- The pupil will remain under constant supervision until responsibility is transferred to emergency services or an appropriate healthcare professional.
- A second dose of adrenaline will be administered if required, in accordance with the pupil's Allergy Action Plan or current emergency response guidance.

If in doubt, staff should treat the situation as anaphylaxis and administer adrenaline.

Staff should not wait to contact parents/carers before taking emergency action and should not permit a pupil experiencing anaphylaxis to walk unaccompanied to seek assistance. **Emergency medication and support must be brought to the pupil.**

14. Educational Visits and Residential Activities

We is committed to ensuring pupils with allergies are able to participate fully in educational visits and residential experiences.

Visit leaders will:

- Consider allergy risks during planning.
- Review relevant IHPs.
- Ensure access to medication.
- Ensure appropriately trained staff are present.
- Include allergy arrangements within risk assessments.

15. Information Sharing

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

A balance will be maintained between:

- Safety.
- Appropriate communication.

- Data protection requirements.
- Respect for privacy and dignity.

16. Serious Incidents and Near Misses

We will maintain procedures for recording, reporting and reviewing allergy-related incidents and near misses.

Parents/carers will be informed as soon as reasonably practicable.

The school will adopt a no-blame approach focused on learning, improvement and risk reduction.

17. Unacceptable Practice

The following practices are not acceptable:

- Preventing access to prescribed medication.
- Excluding pupils from activities because of allergies.
- Ignoring medical advice or Action Plans.
- Sending an unwell pupil to seek help unaccompanied.
- Requiring parents to attend school to administer medication.
- Penalising attendance related to allergy-related illness or healthcare appointments.
- Creating unnecessary barriers to participation in school life.

18. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed at least annually and sooner where:

- Legislation changes.
- Statutory guidance changes.
- Significant incidents occur.
- Near misses identify a need for improvement.
- School procedures change.