

Allergy Policy and Procedure

Policy Family	
Responsible Manager	Designated Safeguarding Lead
Approval Date	<i>Draft</i>
Issue Number	1.0
Review Date	September 2026

Purpose

Biddulph High School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive environment for students, staff and visitors with allergies. We recognise that allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, can be life-threatening and are committed to reducing risk through effective management, staff training and emergency procedures.

2. Aims

The school aims to:

- Support pupils with allergies to participate fully in school life.
- Minimise the risk of allergic reactions.
- Ensure staff understand how to recognise and respond to allergic reactions.
- Work in partnership with parents, carers and healthcare professionals.
- Meet statutory requirements for supporting pupils with medical conditions.

3. Responsibilities

Headteacher

- Ensure this policy is implemented.
- Ensure appropriate staff training is provided.
- Ensure suitable procedures are in place.

First Aid/Medical Lead

- Maintain an up-to-date register of pupils with allergies.
- Ensure all allergies are identified on students Arbor.
- Ensure emergency medication is available and in date.
- Liaise with families and healthcare professionals.

Staff

- Be aware of pupils with allergies.
- Respond immediately to suspected allergic reactions.

- Attend allergy awareness training.
- Report and record any incidents.

Parents/Carers

- Inform the school of any allergies.
- Provide prescribed medication and replace it before expiry.
- Notify the school of any changes to their child's medical needs.

4. Individual Healthcare Plans

Students with significant allergies will have an Individual Healthcare Plan which details:

- Known allergens
- Signs and symptoms
- Medication required
- Emergency procedures
- Emergency contacts

Plans will be reviewed annually or sooner if medical needs change.

5. Medication

Students prescribed an Adrenaline Auto-Injector (AAI) should carry it where appropriate. Spare medication may also be stored in an agreed, easily accessible location.

The school will regularly check expiry dates and ensure medication is readily available during the school day and on educational visits.

6. Preventing Allergic Reactions

The school cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment and therefore does not operate as a nut-free school. Instead, reasonable measures will be taken to reduce risk, including:

- Promoting hand washing before and after eating.
- Discouraging food sharing.
- Cleaning eating areas appropriately.
- Considering allergies during practical lessons and educational visits.
- Working with catering providers to provide allergen information and minimise cross-contamination.

7. Emergency Procedures

If anaphylaxis is suspected:

- Administer an Adrenaline Auto-Injector immediately.
- Call **999** and state "anaphylaxis."
- Contact parents/carers.
- Give a second AAI after five minutes if symptoms continue and another device is available.
- Ensure the pupil is taken to hospital, even if symptoms improve.

Staff should never delay giving adrenaline if anaphylaxis is suspected.

8. Educational Visits

Risk assessments will consider pupils' allergies, access to medication, food arrangements and emergency procedures. Emergency medication must accompany the student on all visits.

9. Training

All staff will receive regular allergy awareness training, including recognising allergic reactions, administering Adrenaline Auto-Injectors and responding to emergencies. New staff will receive appropriate induction.

10. Bullying

Any deliberate exposure of a pupil to an allergen, or bullying related to a medical condition, will be treated as a serious breach of the school's Behaviour Policy.

11. Monitoring

The Headteacher and Governing Board will monitor the implementation of this policy. It will be reviewed annually or sooner following changes in legislation, guidance or a significant allergy-related incident.