Booker Avenue Infant School

Allergy Policy

2026-27

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline how Booker Avenue Infant School manages allergies to ensure a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for all pupils. We are committed to reducing the risk of exposure to allergens and ensuring staff are equipped to respond effectively in case of an allergic reaction.

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2. Scope

This policy applies to all pupils, staff, parents/carers, volunteers, and visitors. It covers:

- Food allergies (e.g. nuts, dairy, eggs, sesame)
- Non-food allergies (e.g. insect stings, medication, latex)
- Environmental allergies (e.g. pollen, dust)

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3. Key Principles

- Every child has the right to feel safe and included.
- Staff are trained to understand allergies and respond quickly and effectively to allergic reactions.
- The school works in partnership with families and healthcare professionals.
- A risk-aware, not risk-averse, approach is taken to allergy management.

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4. Identification and Visibility Measures

To enhance allergy safety and ensure quick recognition of children with allergies, we use age-appropriate visual identifiers:

Photos of children with known allergies are clearly displayed in both the school kitchen and their classroom to ensure all staff are aware.

Nursery:

- Children with diagnosed allergies will use **yellow plates** at all snack and meal times.
- This system helps all staff, including lunchtime supervisors and catering staff, clearly identify those who require additional food safety measures.

Reception:

- Children with diagnosed allergies will wear a **yellow cross-body band** during lunchtimes.
- This provides a clear, consistent, and comfortable way for all staff and visitors to recognise children who require allergy-aware care, during lunch times.

Key Stage 1:

- Children choose their meals independently each day, supported by trained staff members who are fully informed of all allergies and dietary needs.

These identifiers are used **in addition to**, not instead of, medical records, staff awareness, and direct supervision.

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5. Roles and Responsibilities

Parents/Carers:

- Must provide detailed information about allergies upon admission.
- Submit a healthcare professional-approved Allergy Action Plan.
- Supply any prescribed medication (e.g. antihistamines, adrenaline auto-injectors), clearly labelled and in-date.
- Update the school immediately if there are any changes to a child's condition or treatment.

School Staff:

- Complete annual training on allergy recognition, prevention, and emergency response.
- Follow individual Allergy Action Plans.
- Ensure correct use of yellow plates and cross-body bands.
- Supervise all food intake carefully, especially for children with known allergies.

Medical Leads:

- No less than 2 nominated members of staff to be medical leads. These members of staff should hold a first aid certificate.
- Maintain an accurate and updated Allergy Register.
- Ensure emergency medication is stored safely and accessibly.
- Liaise with kitchen staff, teachers, and parents to support safe food handling and awareness.

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6. Food Allergy Management

School Meals:

- The catering team is informed of all known food allergies.
- Allergen-free alternatives are provided as needed.
- Children in **Nursery use yellow plates**, and **Reception children wear yellow cross-body bands** during all meals to aid supervision and awareness.

Packed Lunches:

- As part of our nut-aware environment, parents are asked **not to include any nut products** (e.g. peanut butter, Nutella) in packed lunches.
- Children are not allowed to share food.
- Lunchtime staff are trained to monitor for potential risks of cross-contact.

Snacks and Supervision:

- During **snack times**, children will always be **supervised and within sight or hearing** of a member of staff, in line with the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework**.
- Snack times are structured to ensure staff are aware of individual dietary needs and allergy risks.
- Allergy-safe snacks are provided or approved for children with specific requirements.
- Staff monitor and support safe eating practices to prevent exposure to allergens.

Birthday Treats and Celebrations:

- Any treats brought into school must be discussed with the class teacher in advance.
- Allergy-safe alternatives may be offered as appropriate.

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7. Emergency Procedures

If a child shows signs of an allergic reaction:

1. **Do not leave the child alone.** Call for assistance immediately.
2. **Administer the prescribed medication** (e.g. EpiPen) as outlined in the Allergy Action Plan.
3. **Call emergency services (999)** immediately if symptoms are severe or adrenaline has been given.
4. Inform the child's parents/carers as soon as possible.
5. Record the incident in accordance with school medical, first aid, and safeguarding procedures.

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8. Environmental and Non-Food Allergies

- Classroom and school environments will be assessed for potential allergens (e.g. latex, pets, certain plants).
- Alternatives will be used where appropriate to reduce exposure.
- Staff will support children in managing their allergies, particularly those triggered by seasonal or environmental factors.

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9. Training and Awareness

- All staff, including lunchtime supervisors and support staff, receive allergy awareness and anaphylaxis response training annually.
- Emergency drills and refresher sessions are held throughout the year.
- Staff are made aware of visual identifiers and their meaning (yellow plates and cross-body bands).

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10. Policy Review

- This policy is reviewed annually or following a significant allergy-related incident.
- Parent and staff feedback is welcome to support ongoing improvements in allergy management.

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11. Contact Information

For more information or to update your child's allergy information, please contact:

Headteacher Mrs Lynne Brown
Booker Avenue Infant School
0151 724 1997