

St Alphonsus RC Primary School

Allergy Safety Policy

2026–2027

1. Introduction

St Alphonsus RC Primary School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all pupils, including those with allergies. This policy sets out how we identify, support and safeguard children with allergies, in line with Section 34 of the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026.

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) are responsible for allergy safety, ensuring this policy is implemented, monitored and reviewed annually — or sooner if incidents or “near misses” occur.

This policy is published on our school website and available in hard copy on request.

2. Culture of Awareness and Safety

2.1 Staff Training

All staff present when pupils are on site — including teachers, teaching assistants, midday supervisors, office staff, supply staff, peripatetic teachers, breakfast/after-school club staff and regular volunteers — receive annual allergy awareness and emergency response training.

Training ensures staff:

- Understand allergy types and how reactions occur
- Recognise symptoms of allergic reactions and anaphylaxis
- Know how to respond in an emergency
- Know how to locate and administer emergency medication
- Understand the school’s allergy safety procedures
- Know how to check pupil records and use Allergy or Asthma Action Plans
- Understand how to reduce allergen exposure
- Know how to report incidents and “near misses”

Induction arrangements ensure new and temporary staff receive essential allergy training before working with pupils.

3. Promoting Wellbeing

St Alphonsus recognises that allergy can significantly impact a child’s wellbeing. We:

- Support pupils to feel safe and included
- Address and prevent bullying related to allergy

- Work closely with families to reduce anxiety
- Ensure pupils are not excluded from activities due to allergy

4. Minimising Risk of Allergen Exposure

We take practical steps to reduce the risk of exposure to known allergens, including:

- Clear procedures for food provided by school
- Guidance for food brought in by pupils or visitors
- Measures for pupils with airborne or contact allergies
- Allergen-aware planning for lessons (e.g., cooking, science, art)
- Risk assessments for trips, visits and events

Staff are responsible for checking allergen risks when planning activities.

5. Food Allergy Management

St Alphonsus provides clear information on allergens in school-provided food. Catering staff receive allergy training and follow strict procedures to prevent cross-contamination.

6. Identifying Pupils with Allergy

We maintain accurate records of pupils with allergies, including:

- Known allergens
- Severity of reactions
- Medication requirements
- Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)
- Allergy Action Plans or Asthma Action Plans

Information is gathered from parents, previous settings and healthcare professionals.

Records are updated annually or when new information is provided.

7. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

Pupils have an IHP if:

- Their allergy has functional impact
- They are at risk of harm
- They require arrangements beyond general provision

IHPs outline:

- Daily management
- Reasonable adjustments
- Emergency procedures
- Medication arrangements

Action Plans are attached to IHPs and updated promptly when changes occur.

8. Prescribed Adrenaline Devices

We ensure rapid access to prescribed adrenaline devices (AAIs) at all times, including:

- Classrooms
- Dining hall
- Playground
- Sports areas
- School trips

Procedures include:

- Checking expiry dates
- Ensuring devices go home when required
- Keeping accurate records of pupils with AAIs and Action Plans

9. School-Wide Use of “Spare” Adrenaline Devices

St Alphonsus maintains “spare” AAIs for emergency use in line with national guidance.

We ensure:

- Devices are accessible and not locked away
- No child is more than five minutes from adrenaline
- Devices are stored in clearly labelled pairs
- Expiry dates are checked regularly
- Used or expired devices are replaced promptly

The staff room lockers contain an “Emergency Anaphylaxis Kit” with spare AAIs, inhalers, spacers and instructions.

10. Visits, Trips and Events

Risk assessments are completed for pupils at risk of anaphylaxis.

We ensure:

- Pupils carry their own AAI
- Staff supervising the visit are trained
- Emergency procedures are clear
- Allergen risks are considered in planning

11. Serious Incidents and “Near Misses”

All incidents and “near misses” are:

- Recorded
- Reported to parents
- Reviewed by SLT
- Used to improve practice

Healthcare professionals and parents may report incidents that occur after school hours.

12. Information Sharing

Information about pupils with allergies is shared sensitively and appropriately.

Health information is special category data under UK GDPR and handled with care to maintain confidentiality and dignity.

13. Awareness of the Policy

We raise awareness by:

- Publishing the policy on our website
- Including allergy safety in annual staff training
- Ensuring pupils understand how to seek help in an emergency
- Working with parents to agree appropriate levels of pupil awareness

Awareness activities never replace staff emergency response responsibilities.