



Pupil Allergy Policy

The Hospital School at GOSH and UCLH

Approval

Approved by:
Last reviewed on:
Next review due
by:

Governors

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The Aims of The Hospital School

The aim of The Children's Hospital School is to minimise the interruption and disruption to children and young people's education so that academic progress and an interest in learning will continue, as far as their health permits.

We aim to support each pupil's access to education, providing lessons that meet the individual learning needs of our pupils, taking account of their age, previous learning experiences and interests, as well as their health and medical needs. We encourage children and young people to become confident, resourceful, resilient, enquiring and independent learners.

We aim to make education an integral part of the overall treatment of the child, and the school an essential component of the experience of hospital admission.

Our Guiding Principles

Our school values of Nurture, Innovate, Collaborate and Empower are intrinsic to our work.

Unique individuals: We value each child as a unique individual and know that everyone learns in different ways. Our approach is child-centred and child-led. We have designed a curriculum that has each pupil at its centre; offering pupils opportunities to grow as individuals, as well as gain necessary knowledge and skills to equip them for their next learning steps.

Engagement: At the core of all of our learning is engagement. Regardless of a child or young person's age or stage, we know that this is the essential foundation for connection, well-being and development.

Adaptive Teaching: We teach across a wide range of abilities, ages, subjects and situations. Flexible delivery is essential to ensure that our pupils are set up for success. Adaptations are made to activities before and during school sessions to ensure that we are responding effectively to each child's needs and responses.

Community: Our pupils are often isolated and, in absence of their peer group, we offer opportunities and experiences to make links with others and feel part of our school community. This can be through themed days or weeks when pupils can engage in similar or related activities. This can be through online sessions like whole school assemblies, storytelling or music sessions. This can be through sharing their own work with others or viewing the work of others via an online platform.

Supportive Environment: Whether pupils are engaging in school sessions on the wards or in our schoolroom spaces, we believe that pupils should feel safe and secure, within an environment that is supportive and nurturing.

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Nurture, Innovate, Collaborate and Empower

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1. Aims of this policy

This policy aims to:

- Set out the school's approach to allergy management within a hospital-school environment, including reducing exposure risks and responding to allergic reactions
- Ensure pupils with allergies are supported, safe and fully included
- Promote and maintain allergy awareness among the school community
- Ensure procedures align with clinical expectations and hospital infection-control requirements

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on:

- DfE guidance on allergies in schools and supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Department of Health and Social Care guidance on emergency AAIs in schools
- The Food Information Regulations 2014
- The Food Information (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2019

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 Allergy Lead

The school's allergy leads are **Charlotte Nelson and Elaine Sheil**

Responsibilities include:

- Promoting and maintaining allergy awareness
- Recording and collating allergy and dietary information
- Ensuring allergy information is up to date and accessible
- Ensuring all pupils with allergies have a medical allergy action plan

- Ensuring all staff receive allergy training
- Ensuring staff understand allergy procedures and risk assessments

3.2 Clinical Teams

Clinical teams at GOSH and UCLH:

- Coordinate medical information and allergy documentation
- Provide medical authorisation for pupils to carry their own AAIs
- Advise on medication requirements and changes
- Support the school in understanding clinical risk factors

3.3 Teaching and Support Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Promoting allergy awareness
- Knowing and following allergy procedures
- Recognising signs of allergic reactions and anaphylaxis
- Attending induction and annual allergy training
- Being aware of pupils with allergies in their care
- Considering allergens when planning lessons
- Ensuring inclusion and wellbeing of pupils with allergies
- Not eating and drinking (other than water) in school teaching spaces used by pupils

3.4 Parents/carers

Parents/carers must:

- Provide up-to-date allergy and medical information
- Provide two in-date AAIs (if prescribed) when a pupil attends the schoolroom
- Replace expired medication promptly before a pupil attends the schoolroom
- Follow school guidance that any food is brought into the schoolrooms is clearly labelled with allergens
- Inform the school of any changes to their child's condition

3.5 Pupils with allergies

Where appropriate, pupils are responsible for:

- Being aware of their allergens
- Knowing how and when to use their AAI
- Carrying their AAI only where parental and medical consent has been provided

3.6 Pupils without allergies

Pupils without allergies are expected to:

- Be aware that allergens pose risks to peers
- Follow school guidance on food and shared spaces

4. Assessing risk

Risk assessments will be completed for pupils at risk of anaphylaxis when taking part in:

- Food-related lessons
- Science experiments involving food
- Craft activities using food packaging
- Outdoor sessions
- Off-site trips
- Activities involving animals
- Situations where therapy dogs or support animals are present

5. Managing risk

5.1 Hygiene procedures

- Pupils wash hands before and after eating
- Sharing food is not permitted
- Pupils use their own named water bottles
- Surfaces are cleaned before and after food-related activities

5.2 Catering

Although pupils do not receive food in the schoolrooms, the school ensures:

- Staff are aware of pupils with allergies
- Any food used in lessons is checked for allergens
- Allergen information is available for packaged items
- Cross-contamination is avoided during lesson preparation

5.3 Food restrictions

The Hospital School at GOSH and UCLH is a **nut-free school**.

The following must not be present in :

- Nuts or nut-containing products

Other foods may temporarily added to this is a pupil in the school has a serious allergy.

5.4 Insect bites/stings

Outdoor sessions occur occasionally. To reduce risk:

- Pupils wear shoes outdoors
- Staff remain vigilant for insects
- Pupils with insect-sting allergies are closely supervised

5.5 Animals

Animals are sometimes on site (e.g., therapy dogs, visiting farm). To manage risk:

- Pupils wash hands after interacting with animals
- Pupils with animal allergies do not interact with animals
- Animal visits are risk-assessed
- Animals are not brought into spaces where allergic pupils are learning

5.6 Support for mental health

Support is available through:

- The school wellbeing lead
- Key teachers

5.7 Events and school trips

- Pupils with allergies will not be excluded from trips
- Staff involved will be aware of pupils' allergies and trained in AAI use
- The teacher in charge will carry the pupil's AAI and/or the school's spare AAI
- Trips are risk-assessed in line with this policy

6. Procedures for handling an allergic reaction

6.1 Register of pupils with AAIs

The school maintains a register of pupils who have been prescribed AAIs. The register includes:

- Known allergens and risk factors
- Type and dose of AAI prescribed
- A photograph of the pupil (with parental consent)

The register is kept in the **school office at both GOSH and UCLH.**

6.2 Allergic reaction procedures

- All staff are trained to recognise allergic reactions and anaphylaxis
- Staff follow the pupil's allergy action plan
- Staff use the pupil's own AAI
- If no action plan exists, staff follow the school's emergency procedures and phone the resus teams at either hospital
- Mild reactions (e.g., rash, itching) are monitored and parents/carers informed

7. Adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs)

7.1 Storage

AAIs are:

- Stored at room temperature
- Kept in the school office at each site or with the pupil
- Accessible to staff at all times
- Not locked away

Pupils may carry their own AAI **only with parental and medical consent.**

7.2 Maintenance

Denise Barrett or Nikki Coker check before each session that:

- AAIs are present and in date

7.3 Use of AAIs off school premises

- Pupils able to self-administer carry their own AAI if consent is in place
- The teacher in charge carries the school's spare AAI
- All staff leading trips are AAI-trained

8. Training

All staff receive training on:

- Reducing and preventing allergic reactions
- Recognising allergic reactions and anaphylaxis
- Acting quickly in emergencies
- Locating and accessing AAIs

- Inclusion and wellbeing considerations

Training occurs at **induction** and as an **annual refresh**.

9. Links to other policies

This policy links to:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy