Bidborough Church of England Primary School

Faith in Our Future

Allergy Policy

Approved by	FGB
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Reviewed by	Headteacher
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Faith in Our Future

Matthew 13:31-32 – The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed…Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.

Our life together at Bidborough Church of England Primary School is rooted in Christ's words describing how a little faith can make all things possible. With the values of love, hope, forgiveness, courage and koinonia underpinning all that we do, we seek to prepare all to step out into the world reflecting God's love for one another. With 'Faith in Our Future' we encourage all to:

- *Grow confidently, as a responsible, life-long learner*
- *Achieve highly, not only in academic areas but in their own personal goals*
- *Contribute successfully, as a member of the wider community*
- *Enjoy life, feeling prepared for every stage of life's journey*

Allergy Policy

Bidborough School is committed to promoting a whole school approach to health care, welfare and wellbeing and the safe management of those members of our school community who live with specific allergies. We believe that all allergies should be taken seriously and dealt with in a professional and appropriate way. By our actions we will work proactively to:

- minimise the risk of exposure within the school setting
- encourage self-responsibility
- learn avoidance strategies
- have robust plans for an effective response to possible emergencies
- ensure inclusivity for all pupils

The school is clear about the need to actively support pupils with medical conditions to participate in school life. We will consider what reasonable adjustments are needed to enable all pupils to participate fully and safely in all aspects of school life.

Risk assessments or Allergy Action Plans will be carried out so that planning arrangements take account of any steps needed to ensure that pupils with medical conditions are included. In doing so, pupils, their parents and any relevant healthcare professionals will be consulted.

LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

This policy is based on the Natasha Allergy Research Foundation's model policy which draws on the work of the wider allergy sector.

This policy should be read in conjunction with our other policies including our Health & Safety Policy and Policy for Supporting Children with Medical Conditions.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The day-to-day responsibility for the effective delivery of this policy is delegated to the **Headteacher**.

In order to put the aims and principles of this policy into practice the **Headteacher** will:

- Ensure the school's arrangements to identify and safeguard the wellbeing of pupils, because of their own or someone else's allergy, are robust and effective
- Ensure that the school provides appropriate training, information, instruction, induction and supervision on a regular basis to enable everyone to stay safe regarding allergies and their management
- Ensure adequate resources for managing allergies are available
- Ensure all visitors, volunteers, work experience students, sub-contractors are made aware of the school's commitment to allergy management as part of Safeguarding
- Ensure the curriculum contains age-appropriate content so all pupils/students can learn about allergies and how everyone can support those who have them
- Ensure that up-to-date allergy information for pupils/students is accessible to catering teams
- Encourage parents/carers to provide Allergy Action Plans (AAPs) completed and signed by a healthcare professional that can be kept with their medication with copies made available for all staff to access and help the school support the pupil/student
- Ensure effective communication of individual pupil medical needs to all staff and that they know how and where to check for updated information.
- Ensure there are enough trained staff to meet the statutory requirements and assessed needs, allowing for staff absences away from the school premises

- Ensure First Aid staff training includes anaphylaxis management, including awareness of triggers, anaphylaxis and first aid emergency procedures
- Ensure an adequate risk assessment or Allergy Action Plan is undertaken prior to any school trips, excursions or off- site extra curricula activities for pupils/students who have allergies
- Ensure best practice in the labelling of foodstuffs and their contents

All staff will:

- Follow as directed school procedures pertaining to allergies
- Complete appropriate anaphylaxis training
- Be aware of the pupils in their care who have known allergies as an allergic reaction could occur at any time, not just at breaks or mealtimes
- Supervise any food-related activities with due caution whilst following best practice for storing, preparing, cooking and serving food
- If leading a school visit checking that all pupils/students with medical conditions, including allergies, are carrying their medication (those unable to produce their required medication would not be able to attend the excursion)

Parents/Carers have a responsibility to:

- Notify the school of the pupil/student's allergies and inform the school of any changes as soon as known
- Talk with your child about allergy self-management, including what foods are safe and unsafe, how to read food labels, strategies for avoiding allergens, how to spot symptoms of allergy, how and when to tell an adult if experiencing an allergic reaction.
- Provide an AAP completed by a healthcare professional that can be kept with their medication and help the school support the pupil/student
- Provide any other written medical documentation, instructions and medications as directed by a health professional.
- Provide appropriate in date medication two Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs) of the correct dosage and register their AAIs on the manufacturer's websites to receive text alerts for expiry dates
- Provide appropriate foods to be consumed by the child if necessary
- Replace medications after use or upon expiry

Pupil/Students with allergies (as age appropriate)

- Have a good awareness of their allergy and support the knowledge of peers in helping keep them safe
- Be proactive in the care and management of their food allergies and reactions and medication
- Be sure not to exchange food with others and take care to avoid any foods which may cause an allergic reaction
- Read food labelling but, if unsure, avoid the food
- Avoid eating anything with unknown ingredients
- Know where their medication is kept and (if age appropriate and confident enough to administer their own auto-injectors) take responsibility for carrying AAIs on their person at all times
- As soon as they suspect they are experiencing signs of allergic reaction, tell an adult.

Catering

All food businesses (currently Nourish) must follow the Food Information Regulations 2014 which states that allergen information relating to the 'Top 14' allergens must be available for all food products.

Leah Markwell (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)) will inform the Catering Manager/Cook of pupils with food allergies.

The school has a system in place to ensure catering staff can identify pupils with allergies. This is a list with photographs and known cause of allergy. Leah Markwell/Fiona Gordon (Deputy DSLs) will keep this up to date.

The pupil should be taught to also check with catering staff, before purchasing food or selecting their lunch choice.

Allergy awareness and nut bans

The school supports the approach advocated by many allergy charities towards nut bans/nut free schools. This is because nuts are only one of many allergens that could affect pupils, and no school could guarantee a truly allergen free environment for a child living with food allergy. They advocate instead for schools to adopt a culture of allergy awareness and education.

A 'whole school awareness of allergies' is considered a better approach, as it ensures teachers, pupils and all other staff are aware of what allergies are, the importance of avoiding the pupils' allergens, the signs & symptoms, how to deal with allergic reactions and to ensure policies and procedures are in place to minimise risk.

Risk Assessment

The School will conduct a detailed individual risk assessment or **Individual Healthcare Plan** for all new joining pupils with allergies and any pupils newly diagnosed, to help identify any gaps in our systems and processes for keeping allergic children safe.

Training

Allergy training should include a basic understanding of allergic disease and its risks which include:

- Knowing the common allergens and triggers of allergy
- Spotting the signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction and anaphylaxis. Early recognition of symptoms is key, including knowing when to call for emergency services
- Administering emergency treatment (including AAIs) in the event of anaphylaxis
- Knowing how and when to administer the medication/device
- Measures to reduce the risk of a child having an allergic reaction e.g. allergen avoidance
- Knowing who is responsible for what

Policy review

This policy is reviewed annually or sooner in response to legislative changes or lessons identified from allergic reactions or near misses. The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored at school and trust level to ensure it remains fit for purpose.