ST MICHAEL'S CE (VC) FIRST SCHOOL

'Through God we love, laugh and learn'

ALLERGY AWARENESS POLICY

Date Approved: _____

Signed: _____

Print Name: _____

Date to be Reviewed: _____

Purpose

At St Michael's CE (VC) First School we are committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all pupils, staff and visitors with allergies. We recognise that allergies can range from mild conditions to severe, life-threatening anaphylaxis and that effective management is essential to safeguarding pupils' health, wellbeing and access to education.

This policy sets out how the school will:

- Support pupils with allergies to participate fully in school life.
- Minimise the risk of exposure to known allergens.
- Ensure timely and appropriate responses to allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
- Promote awareness and understanding of allergies across the school community.
- Meet our duties under statutory allergy safety guidance.

This policy applies to:

- All pupils.
- All employees.
- Supply staff and volunteers.
- Contractors working with pupils.
- Visitors attending school activities.
- Breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, educational visits and residential trips.

Aims

The school will:

1. Create an allergy-aware environment.
2. Ensure pupils with allergies are not disadvantaged or excluded.
3. Promote safe participation in all aspects of school life.
4. Ensure staff are appropriately trained.
5. Maintain effective emergency procedures.
6. Work closely with parents, healthcare professionals and external agencies.

Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body

The Governing Body will:

- Ensure the school has an Allergy Safety Policy.
- Monitor implementation and review arrangements regularly.
- Ensure appropriate staffing, training and resources are available.

Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- Ensure the policy is implemented.
- Ensure staff receive appropriate training.
- Ensure Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) are in place where required.
- Maintain oversight of emergency preparedness and incident reporting.

School Staff

All staff will:

- Complete allergy awareness training.
- Understand signs and symptoms of allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
- Can identify a range of symptoms of allergic reaction
- Know how to summon emergency assistance.
- Know how to access and administer emergency medication when required.
- Follow pupils' Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Understand the impact that allergy can have on children's wellbeing.
- Understand how to report an allergic reaction or case if anaphylaxis (including a near-miss)

Parents/Carers

Parents/carers are expected to:

- Inform the school of any allergy diagnosis.
- Provide up-to-date medical information.
- Supply prescribed medication in date.
- Participate in reviews of Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Ensure they follow school rules e.g. Nut free school

Pupils

Where age and understanding allow, pupils will be encouraged to:

- Manage their allergies responsibly.
- Carry prescribed medication where agreed.

- Inform an adult immediately if they believe they are experiencing an allergic reaction.

Identification of Pupils with Allergies

The school will maintain an up-to-date register of pupils with allergies, including:

- Known allergens.
- Severity of allergy.
- Prescribed medication.
- Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Allergy and/or Asthma Action Plans where applicable.

Information will be gathered:

- During admission.
- Following diagnosis.
- Through annual data updates.
- Whenever circumstances change.
- It is the responsibility of parents to keep the school up to date on any information pertaining to their child's medical needs.

Relevant staff will have access to necessary information while maintaining confidentiality.

Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

An Individual Healthcare Plan will normally be developed where a pupil:

- Has an allergy that significantly impacts school life.
- Is at risk of harm due to their allergy.
- Requires arrangements beyond those generally available to all pupils.

IHPs will include:

- Medical condition and known allergens.
- Signs and symptoms.
- Preventative measures.
- Emergency procedures.
- Medication requirements.
- Roles and responsibilities.
- Details of educational visits and extracurricular arrangements.

Plans will be reviewed at least annually and whenever circumstances change.

Staff Training

All staff who supervise pupils will receive allergy awareness training. Training will cover:

- Understanding allergies and allergic conditions.
- Recognition of allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
- Links between food allergy and asthma.
- Emergency procedures.
- Administration of adrenaline auto-injectors.
- Use of spare emergency medication.
- Reporting incidents and near misses.
- Understanding this policy and individual healthcare arrangements.

New staff, supply staff and regular volunteers will receive appropriate induction information.

Reducing the Risk of Allergen Exposure

The school will take reasonable steps to minimise exposure to known allergens. Measures may include:

- Risk assessment of classroom activities.
- Consideration of allergens in cooking, science and craft activities.
- Safe food handling procedures.
- Communication with parents regarding food brought into school.
- Clear expectations regarding food sharing.
- Appropriate supervision at mealtimes.

Pupils with allergies will not be excluded from activities where reasonable adjustments can be made.

Food Management

The school recognises its duties regarding food allergen information and safe food provision.

The school will:

- Work closely with the school cook and kitchen team.
- Ensure allergen information is available and accessible.
- Support pupils requiring allergen-safe meals.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure pupils with allergies can access school meals safely.
- Consider food allergies when menu changes occur.

Food sharing between pupils is discouraged.

Where food is used in lessons, events or celebrations, staff will consider allergy risks in advance.

Allergy-Aware Environment

The school promotes an **allergy-aware** environment but also has a "nut-free" approach within school. This is only one method of management and is used alongside the 'allergy aware' environment.

Our approach is to:

- Raise awareness.
- Minimise risks.
- Encourage responsible behaviour.
- Maintain robust emergency arrangements.

Wellbeing and Anti-Bullying

The school recognises the emotional impact allergies can have on pupils.

We will:

- Promote understanding and awareness.
- Provide reassurance and support.
- Address anxiety relating to allergies.
- Treat allergy-related bullying seriously.

All incidents will be managed in accordance with the school's Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies.

Emergency Procedures

All suspected allergic reactions will be treated seriously.

Staff will:

1. Remain with the pupil.
2. Follow the pupil's Allergy Action Plan and IHP.
3. Administer prescribed medication without delay where required.
4. Call 999 immediately if anaphylaxis is suspected.
5. Contact parents/carers as soon as possible.
6. Ensure the pupil is monitored until medical help arrives.

Emergency medication will be readily accessible and never locked away in a manner that delays treatment.

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13. Adrenaline Auto-Injectors and Spare Medication

The school will support pupils who have prescribed adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs). These will be clearly named and easily accessible for the pupil.

The school will maintain permitted spare AAIs in accordance with current regulations and guidance.

The school will ensure:

- Storage arrangements are appropriate.
- Medication is checked regularly.
- The pens are labelled to show the correct age they are suitable for.
- Expiry dates are monitored.
- Staff know where medication is located.
- Procedures for use are clearly understood.

Educational Visits and Residential Trips

Reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure pupils with allergies can participate fully and safely in educational visits.

Trip leaders will:

- Review relevant IHPs.

- Undertake allergy risk assessments.
- Ensure emergency medication is available.
- Ensure accompanying staff understand emergency procedures.
- Consider catering arrangements in advance.

Recording Incidents and Near Misses

The school will record:

- Allergic reactions.
- Anaphylaxis incidents.
- Medication administration.
- Near misses.
- Lessons learned and actions taken.

Records will be reviewed to identify patterns and improve practice.

Information Sharing

Relevant allergy information will be shared with staff on a need-to-know basis and in accordance with data protection requirements.

Information may be shared with:

- Teaching staff.
- Support staff.
- Lunchtime supervisors.
- Catering teams.
- Trip leaders.
- Relevant external providers.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed:

- Annually.
- Following any serious allergy incident.
- Following changes in statutory guidance.

- When significant operational changes occur.

Linked Documents

- Individual Healthcare Plan
- Allergy Action Plan
- Asthma Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
