

SCHOOL POLICIES

Allergy Safety Policy



This policy was adopted by the Governors on: September 2026

The last review of this policy was: September 2026

This policy is due for review on: September 2028

Signed Headteacher: N. Craddock

Signed Chair of Governing Body: D. Garside

1. Purpose

At Hudson Primary School, we are committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for every child.

We recognise that allergies can affect children's health, wellbeing, attendance and participation in school life. Some allergies can result in **anaphylaxis**, a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction requiring immediate emergency treatment.

Our approach is therefore based on:

Identify. Prevent. Prepare. Respond. Learn.

We will work closely with children, parents and carers, healthcare professionals, catering providers and staff to minimise the risk of allergic reactions and ensure that children with allergies can participate fully in school life.

This policy should be read alongside the school's **Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy**, Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs), First Aid Policy, Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Educational Visits Policy and Food Safety arrangements.

2. Statutory framework

This policy has been developed with regard to the Department for Education's **Allergy Safety in Schools statutory guidance**, published in July 2026.

The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 introduced a statutory requirement for schools in England to have an allergy safety policy. Schools must review their policy at least annually, make appropriate changes and publish the policy on their website.

The policy also operates alongside the school's existing duties to support pupils with medical conditions under section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All pupils attending Hudson Primary School
- Nursery children
- Children attending the school's autism resourced provision
- Staff and volunteers
- Governors
- Agency and temporary staff
- Contractors working directly with children
- Catering staff
- Visitors where relevant
- School activities and educational visits

The policy covers allergies including, but not limited to:

- Food allergies
- Medication allergies
- Insect sting allergies
- Latex and contact allergies
- Environmental or airborne allergens

4. Our responsibilities

Hudson Primary School will take reasonable and proportionate steps to:

- Identify pupils with allergies
- Identify pupils at risk of anaphylaxis
- Record relevant allergy information accurately
- Develop Individual Healthcare Plans where required
- Minimise exposure to known allergens
- Ensure prescribed medication is available and accessible
- Ensure appropriate staff receive allergy awareness and emergency response training
- Maintain appropriate emergency arrangements
- Ensure pupils can participate safely in school activities and educational visits
- Record and learn from serious incidents and near misses
- Work with parents/carers and healthcare professionals
- Review allergy arrangements regularly

5. Identification and recording of allergies

Parents and carers should inform school as soon as possible if their child:

- Has a diagnosed allergy
- Is awaiting allergy assessment
- Has previously experienced anaphylaxis
- Has been prescribed an adrenaline auto-injector (AAI)
- Has had an allergic reaction
- Develops a new allergy
- Has a change to their allergy treatment

Information will be recorded securely within the school's medical and safeguarding systems as appropriate.

Relevant allergy information will be shared with staff who need to know in order to keep the child safe.

Information will be communicated to:

- The child's class teacher
- Relevant teaching assistants
- First aiders
- Catering staff where appropriate
- Educational visit leaders
- Other staff where necessary

Information will be handled in accordance with data protection requirements.

6. Individual Healthcare Plans

Children with significant allergies, particularly those at risk of anaphylaxis, will have an **Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP)** where appropriate.

The IHP should set out:

- The child's diagnosed allergy
- Known allergens
- Typical symptoms and signs
- Early warning signs
- Emergency response
- Medication prescribed
- Location of medication
- How medication should be administered
- Who is responsible for administering medication
- Emergency contact information
- Arrangements for school trips and activities
- Any other relevant advice from healthcare professionals

IHPs will be developed with parents/carers and, where appropriate, the child and relevant healthcare professionals.

They will be reviewed at least annually and whenever there is a significant change in the child's circumstances.

7. Minimising exposure to allergens

The school will take reasonable steps to minimise the risk of exposure to known allergens.

However, we recognise that it is not possible to guarantee an entirely allergen-free environment.

Measures may include:

- Communicating relevant allergy information to staff
- Appropriate cleaning arrangements
- Safe food preparation and handling
- Appropriate supervision during eating
- Ensuring food ingredients and allergen information are available
- Avoiding known allergens in food provided directly to an individual child
- Appropriate storage of medication
- Teaching children not to share food
- Appropriate management of classroom activities involving food or other allergens
- Considering allergens when planning educational visits and activities

Children will be taught, in an age-appropriate way, about the importance of keeping themselves and others safe.

8. Food and catering

Hudson Primary School recognises that food allergy is a significant area of risk.

Our catering arrangements will support pupils with identified food allergies and other medically required dietary needs.

Catering staff will:

- Receive relevant allergy information
- Follow agreed procedures for identifying allergens
- Follow food safety and allergen-management procedures
- Check ingredients where necessary
- Communicate appropriately with school staff
- Avoid making assumptions about the safety of food
- Ensure that substitutions do not inadvertently introduce an allergen

Where menus change or ingredients are substituted, the dietary requirements of children with allergies must continue to be met.

The Department for Education's September 2026 school food guidance specifically requires schools and caterers to consider special dietary needs, including food allergies, when menus or ingredients change.

Sharing food

Children should not share food brought into or provided within school.

Where food is used as part of curriculum activities, staff will consider known allergies before the activity takes place.

9. Adrenaline auto-injectors

Children who have been prescribed an adrenaline auto-injector must have access to their prescribed device in accordance with their IHP.

Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that prescribed medication supplied to school:

- Is in date
- Is clearly labelled
- Is supplied in the required quantity
- Is replaced before expiry
- Is replaced following use

School will maintain appropriate records of medication.

Where a child has been prescribed two adrenaline auto-injectors, both should be available in accordance with the child's healthcare plan.

10. Emergency adrenaline devices

Hudson Primary School will maintain emergency arrangements in line with current statutory requirements and Department for Education guidance.

Where appropriate, the school will hold spare adrenaline auto-injectors for emergency use.

Emergency devices will be:

- Stored safely
- Accessible when required
- Appropriately labelled
- Checked regularly
- Included within emergency response arrangements
- Replaced before expiry

Staff will be informed about the location of emergency devices.

11. Recognising anaphylaxis

Staff should be aware that anaphylaxis can develop rapidly and may involve symptoms affecting:

Airway

- Swelling of the tongue or throat
- Difficulty swallowing
- Changes to the voice
- Difficulty breathing

Breathing

- Wheezing
- Persistent coughing
- Shortness of breath
- Noisy or difficult breathing

Circulation

- Dizziness
- Collapse
- Pale or clammy appearance
- Loss of consciousness

Other symptoms may include:

- Widespread hives or rash
- Swelling
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Sudden behavioural change or distress

Anaphylaxis can occur without obvious skin symptoms.

12. Emergency response

If a child is suspected to be experiencing anaphylaxis:

1. **Stay with the child and remain calm.**
2. **Administer the child's prescribed adrenaline auto-injector immediately**, where available and appropriate.
3. **Call 999 and state that the child is experiencing anaphylaxis.**
4. Follow the child's Individual Healthcare Plan where available.
5. If there is no improvement, or symptoms return, a second adrenaline auto-injector should be administered in accordance with current clinical guidance and the child's emergency arrangements.
6. Keep the child under continuous observation.
7. Do not allow the child to stand or walk unnecessarily.
8. Arrange for emergency medical assistance.
9. Inform parents/carers as soon as practicable.
10. Record and report the incident in accordance with school procedures.

Staff should never delay the administration of adrenaline while waiting for a healthcare professional if anaphylaxis is suspected and an appropriate adrenaline device is available.

13. Staff training

Hudson will ensure that appropriate staff receive allergy awareness and emergency response training.

Training will cover:

- Understanding allergies
- Common allergens
- Recognising symptoms
- Recognising anaphylaxis
- Emergency response
- Use of adrenaline auto-injectors
- Location and management of emergency medication
- Individual Healthcare Plans
- Preventing allergen exposure
- Supporting children during activities and educational visits
- Recording and reporting incidents

All staff should understand that allergy safety is a whole-school responsibility.

Training will be refreshed in accordance with current statutory guidance and whenever there is a significant change in arrangements.

The DfE statutory guidance specifically identifies allergy awareness training, including recognition of symptoms, emergency response and use of adrenaline devices, as an important part of school allergy safety.

14. Educational visits and activities

Children with allergies must be enabled to participate in school activities and educational visits wherever reasonably possible.

Before a visit, staff will consider:

- The child's IHP
- Known allergens
- Access to prescribed medication
- Access to emergency medication
- Staff awareness
- Catering arrangements
- Transport
- The location of emergency medical services
- Appropriate supervision
- Emergency procedures

Medication must accompany the child when required.

Allergy safety arrangements will be included within the educational visit risk assessment where appropriate.

15. Early Years and Nursery

Additional care will be taken with children in Nursery and Reception because younger children may:

- Be less able to recognise their symptoms
- Be less able to communicate what they have eaten or touched
- Require greater supervision
- Be more likely to share food or objects
- Require adult assistance with medication

Relevant allergy information will be communicated clearly to all staff working with the child.

16. Autism resourced provision and SEND

Hudson recognises that children with SEND may require additional or adapted allergy-safety arrangements.

Individual arrangements may be necessary where a child:

- Has difficulty communicating symptoms
- Has sensory differences affecting food or medication
- Requires additional adult supervision
- Has difficulty understanding allergen risks
- Requires visual or personalised communication
- Has an EHCP or other identified support need

Where appropriate, allergy information and emergency procedures will be incorporated into the child's wider support arrangements.

17. Awareness and education

We will promote age-appropriate understanding of allergies across the school.

Children may be taught:

- That some people have serious allergies
- Not to share food
- The importance of following adult instructions
- How to seek adult help
- How to recognise that someone may be unwell
- That medication must never be played with or shared

We will avoid creating unnecessary fear around allergies while ensuring that children understand how they can help keep themselves and others safe.

18. Incidents and near misses

Any serious allergic reaction, suspected anaphylaxis or significant near miss will be recorded.

Following an incident, the school will consider:

- What happened
- Whether emergency arrangements worked effectively
- Whether medication was immediately accessible
- Whether staff responded appropriately
- Whether communication was effective
- Whether any environmental or procedural factors contributed
- Whether the child's IHP needs updating
- Whether wider school procedures need to change
- Whether staff require additional training

Parents/carers will be informed of relevant incidents.

The governing body will be informed of significant incidents in accordance with school procedures and statutory requirements.

The purpose of reviewing incidents is to learn and improve safety rather than to apportion blame.

19. Roles and responsibilities

Governing Body

The governing body will:

- Ensure the school has an allergy safety policy

- Ensure the policy is reviewed at least annually
- Monitor implementation
- Ensure appropriate accountability arrangements are in place

Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- Ensure the policy is implemented
- Ensure appropriate staff receive training
- Ensure suitable arrangements are in place for pupils with allergies
- Ensure the policy is reviewed and published
- Ensure significant incidents are appropriately investigated and reported

Designated Allergy Safety Lead

The school will designate an appropriate senior member of staff to oversee allergy safety arrangements.

The Allergy Safety Lead will:

- Maintain oversight of pupils with significant allergies
- Coordinate IHP arrangements
- Monitor medication and emergency devices
- Support staff training
- Liaise with families and healthcare professionals
- Review incidents and near misses
- Ensure allergy information is appropriately communicated

Staff

All staff are responsible for:

- Familiarising themselves with relevant allergy information
- Following IHPs and school procedures
- Completing required training
- Responding promptly to suspected allergic reactions
- Reporting concerns and incidents
- Supporting inclusive participation

Parents and carers

Parents/carers are responsible for:

- Informing school of their child's allergy
- Providing accurate and up-to-date information
- Providing prescribed medication
- Replacing medication before expiry
- Informing school of changes to diagnosis or treatment
- Working with school to develop and review the child's IHP

Pupils

Pupils will be supported to:

- Understand their own allergy where age-appropriate
- Follow their healthcare plan
- Tell an adult if they feel unwell
- Avoid sharing food
- Follow safety instructions

20. Confidentiality and information sharing

Allergy information is personal medical information and will be handled sensitively.

Information will be shared with staff and other individuals only where there is a legitimate need for them to know in order to safeguard and support the child.

Relevant information will be made readily accessible to staff who may need to respond in an emergency.

21. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed **at least annually** and sooner where:

- There is a significant allergic reaction
- There is a serious incident or near miss
- Government guidance changes
- A child's circumstances change significantly
- School arrangements change
- New risks are identified

The review will consider incident records, training, medication arrangements, IHPs, educational visits, catering and feedback from children, families and staff where appropriate.

The policy will be published on the school website and brought to the attention of staff and families at least annually.

22. Policy statement

At Hudson Primary School:

Every child has the right to be safe, included and able to participate in school life.

We recognise that allergy safety is a shared responsibility.

Through careful planning, appropriate training, effective communication and rapid emergency response, we will work to minimise risk while ensuring that children with allergies are not unnecessarily restricted from learning, playing, travelling or experiencing everything that Hudson has to offer.

Ready. Respectful. Safe.

Everyone experiences excellence.