



ALLERGY AWARENESS, MANAGEMENT AND ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

Written by Mr Griffiths

Accepted: June 2026

Review: June 2027

Rights Respecting School Policy Statement

As a rights respecting school we focus on the rights of every child.

Every child has the right to learn, feel safe and happy whatever their background, culture, gender, race, religion, socio-economic status and ability.

As a “Rights Respecting School” pupils have the opportunity to learn about the work of Unicef and the United Nations.

The curriculum is the vehicle to enable pupils to engage with rights and their likened responsibilities.

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School: Crosby High School

Location: Crosby, Sefton

Age Range: 11-16 Years

Policy Owner: Headteacher

Designated Allergy Lead: Mrs Carol Swanson

Review Date: Annually or sooner if legislation / guidance changes

1. Policy Statement

Crosby High School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive learning environment for all pupils, staff and visitors. We recognise that allergies can have a significant impact on health, wellbeing, attendance and participation in school life. Some allergic reactions can be life-threatening and require immediate intervention.

In accordance with the principles of Benedict's Law and statutory guidance relating to supporting pupils with medical conditions, the school will take all reasonable steps to minimise exposure to allergens, ensure staff are appropriately trained, maintain emergency procedures and support pupils with allergies to participate fully in school life.

2. Aims

The school aims to:

- Safeguard pupils with diagnosed or suspected allergies.
- Reduce the risk of accidental exposure to allergens.
- Ensure prompt recognition and treatment of allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
- Provide appropriate training for all staff.
- Maintain accurate records and individual healthcare plans.
- Promote awareness and understanding of allergies throughout the school community.
- Work collaboratively with parents, carers, healthcare professionals and external agencies.

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All pupils.
- All staff, including temporary and agency staff.
- Volunteers.
- Contractors and visitors.
- Educational visits, transport arrangements and off-site activities.

4. Definitions

Allergy

An immune system response to a substance (allergen) that is normally harmless.

Anaphylaxis

A severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction requiring immediate emergency treatment.

Common Allergens

May include but are not limited to:

- Peanuts and tree nuts
- Milk and dairy products
- Eggs
- Fish and shellfish
- Wheat and gluten
- Sesame
- Soya
- Insect stings
- Latex
- Animal dander
- Medicines

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body

The Governing Body will:

- Ensure appropriate policies and procedures are in place.
- Monitor compliance with this policy.
- Ensure sufficient resources are available for implementation.

Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- Ensure this policy is implemented.
- Appoint a Designated Allergy Lead.
- Ensure staff training is provided and recorded.
- Ensure emergency medication arrangements are maintained.

Designated Allergy Lead

The Allergy Lead will:

- Maintain the allergy register.
- Coordinate healthcare plans.
- Liaise with families and healthcare professionals.
- Monitor training compliance.
- Review allergy incidents and lessons learned.

Staff

All staff must:

- Familiarise themselves with pupils' allergy needs.
- Attend required training.
- Follow healthcare plans and risk assessments.
- Respond appropriately in an emergency.
- Report concerns, near misses and incidents.

Parents/Carers

Parents/carers are expected to:

- Inform the school of allergies and changes in medical needs.
- Provide prescribed medication where required.
- Supply up-to-date medical information and emergency contact details.
- Participate in reviews of healthcare plans.

6. Identification and Recording

The school will maintain:

- An Allergy Register.
- Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs).
- Allergy Action Plans where provided by healthcare professionals.
- Records of medication held in school.

Information will be accessible to relevant staff whilst maintaining confidentiality and data protection requirements.

7. Individual Healthcare Plans

All pupils with significant allergies will have an Individual Healthcare Plan which will include:

- Details of allergens.
- Symptoms and warning signs.
- Medication requirements.
- Emergency procedures.
- Staff responsibilities.
- Reasonable adjustments required.
- Arrangements for educational visits and transport.

Plans will be reviewed annually or sooner if circumstances change.

8. Risk Reduction Measures

The school does not claim to be allergen-free. Instead, it adopts a risk-management approach.

Measures include:

Food Management

- Sharing allergy information with catering providers where appropriate.
- Clear labelling of food ingredients.
- Careful supervision during food-related activities.
- Risk assessments for cooking lessons and food technology.
- Individual arrangements for pupils with severe food allergies.

Classroom Activities

Risk assessments will be completed where allergens may be present in:

- Art materials.
- Science experiments.
- Sensory activities.
- Vocational learning activities.

Hygiene

- Handwashing encouraged before and after eating.
- Cleaning procedures to reduce cross-contamination.
- Appropriate disposal of food waste.

9. Staff Training

All staff will receive annual allergy awareness training covering:

- Common allergies.
- Recognising allergic reactions.
- Signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis.
- Use of adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs).
- Emergency procedures.
- Responsibilities under this policy.

Additional training will be provided for designated first aiders and key staff.

Training records will be maintained by the school.

10. Medication

Prescribed Medication

The school will:

- Store medication safely but accessibly.
- Ensure medication is clearly labelled.
- Check expiry dates regularly.
- Ensure medication accompanies pupils on educational visits.

Spare Adrenaline Auto-Injectors

The school will maintain spare in-date adrenaline auto-injectors in accordance with current legislation and guidance.

Spare devices will be:

- Easily accessible.
- Stored in clearly identified locations.
- Available during educational visits where appropriate.

11. Emergency Response

Where an allergic reaction is suspected:

1. Follow the pupil's Individual Healthcare Plan.
2. Administer prescribed medication immediately if indicated.
3. Administer adrenaline without delay where anaphylaxis is suspected.
4. Call 999 and state "ANAPHYLAXIS".
5. Contact parents/carers.
6. Monitor the pupil until emergency services arrive.
7. Administer a second dose of adrenaline if required and available, following medical guidance.

No pupil experiencing suspected anaphylaxis will be left unattended.

12. Educational Visits and Transport

Risk assessments will consider:

- Allergens at the venue.
- Availability of medication.
- Staff training.
- Emergency arrangements.
- Catering provision & Transport considerations.

Medication and healthcare plan will accompany the pupil if deemed necessary by HT / EVC.

13. Recording and Reporting Incidents

All allergy-related incidents, including near misses, will be recorded and reviewed.

The review process will consider:

- Causes.
- Response effectiveness.
- Lessons learned.
- Additional control measures required.

14. Inclusion and Equality

The school will make reasonable adjustments to ensure pupils with allergies can participate fully in:

- Lessons.
- Trips and visits.
- Clubs and enrichment activities.
- School events.

No pupil will be excluded from activities solely because of an allergy unless a risk assessment demonstrates that participation cannot be made safe.

15. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed:

- Annually.
- Following any serious incident.
- Following changes to legislation or statutory guidance.
- Following recommendations from healthcare professionals or regulatory bodies.

The Governing Body will receive periodic reports regarding allergy management, training compliance and incident trends.

16. Linked Policies

- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- SEND Policy
- Equality and Accessibility Policy