



Allergies Policy

Date Written / Reviewed	February 2025
Date of Next Review	February 2028
Headteacher	<i>R Swaby</i>
Chair of Governors	<i>M Hopkins</i>

Statement of Intent:

This policy is concerned with a whole school approach to the health care and management of those members of the school community suffering from specific allergies.

Delph Primary School is aware that children who attend our setting, may suffer from an allergy including food, bee/ wasp sting, animal or nut allergies. We believe that all allergies should be taken seriously and dealt with in a professional and appropriate way.

Delph Primary School's position is not to guarantee a completely allergen free environment but rather to minimise the risk of exposure, encourage self-responsibility, and plan for effective response to possible emergencies.

The Statutory Framework states that the provider must obtain information about any dietary requirements/allergy. As such parents are asked to provide details of allergies in the child's 'Data Collection' form, which is submitted when they join Delph Pre-School or Delph Primary School. Staff are also required to provide any allergy information as part of their induction process.

Aim:

The intent of this policy is to minimise the risk of any child suffering allergy-induced anaphylaxis whilst at school.

The underlying principles of this policy include:

- The establishment of effective risk management practices to minimise the pupil, staff, parent and visitor exposure to known trigger foods and insects.
- Staff training and education to ensure effective emergency response to any allergic reaction situation.

This policy applies to all members of the school community including: School Staff, Parents / Carers, Governors, Volunteers, Supply staff and Students.

Definitions:

Allergy – A condition in which the body has an exaggerated response to a substance (e.g. food and drug) also known as hypersensitivity.

Allergen – A normally harmless substance that triggers an allergic reaction in the immune system of a susceptible person.

Anaphylaxis – Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a sudden, severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction to food, stings, bites, or medicines.

Epipen – Brand name for syringe style device containing the drug Adrenalin, which is ready for immediate inter-muscular administration.

Minimised Risk Environment - An environment where risk management practices (e.g. Risk assessment forms) have minimised the risk of (allergen) exposure.

Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP)- A detailed document outlining an individual student's condition treatment, and action plan for location of Epipen.

Procedures and Responsibilities for Allergy Management:

General

- Parents/Carers and staff should be involved in establishing Individual Health Care Plans (IHCP).
- Effective communication regarding a child's IHCP should be established and involve all relevant staff.
- Regular staff training in allergy and anaphylaxis management is undertaken, including awareness of triggers, first aid procedures, EpiPen training and actions to be followed in the event of an emergency.
- Age-appropriate education of the children with severe food allergies should be established by school and parent/carers.

Medical Information

- Parents/Carers must report any changes in a child's medical condition during the year, to the school. IHCPs will then be updated.
- For students with an allergic condition, the school requires parents/carers to meet with a member of SLT to ensure the school has all the required information. A IHCP will be created which is checked by the Headteacher and advice sought from the school nurse if required.
- School Leaders will ensure that an IHCP is established and updated for each child with a known allergy.
- Teachers and teacher assistants of those students and key staff, including catering staff, are required to review and familiarise themselves with the medical information.
- **Whole School and Class Medical/Allergy Overviews** with a recent photograph for any students with allergies, will be shared and stored accordingly in classrooms / Kitchen etc.
- Where pupils with known allergies are participating in school trips, the risk assessments must include this information and any necessary steps.
- The wearing of a medic-alert bracelet is allowed by the school.

Medical Information – Epi-pens & Inhalers

Where Epi-pens (Adrenalin) and / or inhalers are required in the IHCP:

- Parents/carers are responsible for the provision and timely replacement of the Epi-pen / inhalers. A spare Epi-pen is highly recommended.
- Epi-pens / inhalers are to be located where the pupil will spend most of their time i.e. their usual classroom. They **MUST NEVER** be locked away when the child is on site.

Natasha's Law

In school, we will ensure that any prepacked food prepared on site i.e. food parcels and/or packed lunches for trips will be prepared in the same way as school meals are to avoid any cross-contamination and to ensure the items meet the child's needs. The child or staff name will be labelled clearly on the outside of the food package.

Packed Lunches and Break Time Snacks

At Delph Primary School, we value the importance of a healthy lifestyle and encourage all the children to make healthy choices. We follow strict Food Standard Guidelines when preparing school dinners to offer a balanced daily meal. Salt is not used in the preparation of sandwiches/wraps and sugar is kept to a minimum. Where a pupil opts for a packed lunch from home, we ask that families consider suitable food items that create a balanced meal.

Children in Pre-School to Year 2 are offered a piece of fruit/veg as a snack, during the school day. Pre School and Reception children also have access to a cup of milk. Children in KS2 are invited to bring in a healthy snack, to be consumed during morning break time. We also offer a Tuck Shop twice a week for our KS2 children (40p an item) where food includes toast, pancakes and baked crisps.

NUTS OR PRODUCTS CONTAINING WHOLE NUTS SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN PACKED LUNCHES NOR AS A SNACK ITEM. (ITEMS WHICH STATE THEY 'MAY CONTAIN TRACES OF NUT' ARE CURRENTLY ALLOWED).

The Role of Parents / Carers

Parent/Carers are responsible for providing, in writing, up to date, accurate and current medical information to the school.

Parents/Carers are to notify the school by completing an IHCP and detailing the nature of the allergy, including:

- the allergen (the substance the child is allergic to).
- the nature of the allergic reaction (from rash, breathing problems to anaphylactic shock).
- what to do in case of allergic reaction, including any medication to be used and how it is to be used.
- control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from getting into contact with the allergen.

They MUST given consent for school staff to administer emergency medication if required.

The IHCP will be reviewed by staff and signed by all relevant parties.

It is the responsibility of the Parent/Carer to provide the school with up-to-date medication/equipment clearly labelled in a suitable container. In the case of life saving medication like Epi-pens the child will not

be allowed to attend school without it. Parents are required to provide up to date emergency contact information.

Parents / Carers should liaise with staff about appropriateness of snacks and any food-related activities e.g. cooking or prior to a residential.

The Role of Staff

Staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with the school policy and to adhere to health & safety regulations regarding food and drink.

If a child has an allergy, then a IHCP will be needed, It must be in place before the child starts attending school or at the point an allergy is identified. A risk assessment should be carried out prior to any activities taking place which are not part of a typical day i.e. a school trip, residential or a visitor to school with animals.

The Headteacher will determine if a ban on certain foods is needed after consultation with the parent / carer and health professionals. If appropriate, this will then be publicised to the whole school community. Currently our policy states:

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All staff who encounter the child will be made aware of what treatment/medication is required and where any medication is stored. They will know where to locate the child's IHCP.

Teachers and key support staff will:

- promote hand washing before and after eating.
- monitor snack time and the ingredients of snacks.
- be informed of the procedures at snack and lunch time to ensure the safety of children with allergies.
- liaise with parents/carers about snacks and any food-related activities.
- ensure that children are not permitted to share food unless part of a planned activity that the teacher has risk assessed.
- ask the parent/carers for a list of food products and food derivatives the child must not come into contact with.

Catering staff will maintain a list of known allergens within the school meal menu items and these can be shared with parents/carers if requested.

Staff cannot guarantee that foods will not contain traces of nuts.

Staff are trained in first aid, including Epi-pen use and storage. Emergency medication should be easily accessible, especially at times of high risk.

Emergency Actions:

In the event of a child suffering an allergic reaction:

1. Check to see if there is a known record of the allergy / IHCP and follow instructions.
2. If no IHCP and the child is suffering serious symptoms ring 999 and follow advice. An Epi-pen designated for another child may be used in an emergency.
3. Contact parent to advise or ask for advice if less serious symptoms.
4. Calm and reassure the child.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's monitoring cycle. The Headteacher has responsibility for monitoring this policy.

Data Protection Statement

The procedures and practice created by this policy have been reviewed in the light of our Data Protection Policy. All data will be handled in accordance with the school's Data Protection Policy.

Data Audit for the Allergies Policy					
What?	Probable Content	Why?	Who?	Where?	When?
Range of personal data relating to pupils/staff	Name D.O.B. Medical/Allergy details	Ensure pupils/staff medical needs can be supported	Staff	SIMS CPOMS IHCP records	Held on File throughout a child's time at school
This Policy has Few / No Data Compliance Requirements		This Policy has A Moderate Level of Data Compliance Requirements		This Policy has a High Level of Data Compliance Requirements	
		✓			