



Allergy Safety Policy

Learning for Life

Policy date	September 2026
Review date	September 2027
Policy owner	Headteacher / Designated Allergy Lead
Approval	Governing Body
Applies to	All pupils, staff, visitors, volunteers and activities organised by the school

Contents

1. Our commitment	3
2. Statutory framework	3
3. Understanding allergy and anaphylaxis	3
4. Identifying pupils and individual plans	4
5. Reducing risk across school	4
6. Food, catering and celebrations	5
7. Adrenaline auto-injectors and emergency medication	5
8. Responding to an allergic reaction	6
9. Trips, clubs, sport and wider school life	6
10. Training, communication and responsibilities	6
11. Incidents, near misses and learning	7
12. Inclusion and wellbeing	7
13. Record keeping, monitoring and review	7

This policy is deliberately practical. It should be read alongside our First Aid and Medication Policy, Individual Healthcare Plans, Allergy Action Plans, Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and educational visit procedures.

1. Our commitment

At Steeton Primary, allergy safety is part of keeping children safe. We want every child to be able to learn, play, eat, travel, celebrate and take part in school life with confidence.

Our approach is based on prevention, preparation and prompt response.

Allergies can be serious and, in some cases, life-threatening. Our job is not to promise an entirely allergen-free environment - that is rarely realistic. Our job is to know our children, reduce avoidable risk, prepare well and respond quickly if a reaction occurs.

We work in partnership with children, families, healthcare professionals, our catering provider and other adults who work in school. Children with allergies should be included fully and sensitively, without unnecessary restrictions or isolation.

2. Statutory framework

This policy reflects the legal duties and statutory guidance applying to maintained schools in England from September 2026. In particular, it has regard to:

- section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and the duty to support pupils with medical conditions;
- the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 and the allergy safety duties commonly referred to as Benedict's Law;
- the Department for Education statutory guidance Allergy safety in schools, published July 2026;
- the Food Information Regulations 2014, including allergen information and labelling requirements;
- requirements for prepacked for direct sale (PPDS) food, commonly known as Natasha's Law; and
- current Department for Education and healthcare guidance on school food, allergies, anaphylaxis and adrenaline auto-injectors.

The school will maintain and publish a dedicated allergy safety policy, ensure appropriate allergy awareness training for staff, identify pupils who need Individual Healthcare Plans and learn from serious incidents and near misses.

3. Understanding allergy and anaphylaxis

An allergy is an immune system reaction to a substance that would normally be harmless. Reactions vary. They may be mild, but they can also develop rapidly into anaphylaxis - a serious, potentially life-threatening reaction.

Possible signs include:

- itching or tingling in the mouth, hives or a rash;

- swelling of the lips, face, tongue or eyes;
- stomach pain, vomiting or diarrhoea;
- coughing, wheezing, difficulty breathing or a change in voice;
- dizziness, collapse or loss of consciousness.

Staff must not assume that a reaction is mild simply because the first symptoms appear limited. If anaphylaxis is suspected, it is an emergency.

4. Identifying pupils and individual plans

Parents and carers must tell school as soon as possible about a diagnosed or suspected allergy and keep us updated when anything changes. We will record relevant information and make sure it is available to the adults who need it to keep the child safe.

Information should include the allergen, previous reactions where known, prescribed medication, whether an adrenaline auto-injector (AAI) has been prescribed, an up-to-date Allergy Action Plan and relevant healthcare advice.

Pupils with allergies will have an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) where required. The plan will be developed with parents/carers and, where appropriate, the child and healthcare professionals. It will set out the child's allergens, likely symptoms, risk-reduction measures, medication, emergency response and arrangements for trips and activities.

Plans will be reviewed at least annually and sooner when needs, medication or circumstances change.

5. Reducing risk across school

Allergy safety is a whole-school responsibility. Risk reduction must be sensible, proportionate and based on the needs of individual children.

At Steeton we will:

- maintain an up-to-date allergy register and relevant individual plans;
- make sure staff who work with a child understand the child's allergy and what to do in an emergency;
- consider allergies when planning lessons, cooking, celebrations, rewards, visitors, clubs, outdoor learning and educational visits;
- promote good hand hygiene and appropriate cleaning, particularly around food;
- avoid food sharing where this could create a risk;
- check ingredients and allergen information rather than relying on memory or previous use;
- ensure supply, temporary, visiting and wraparound staff receive the information they need;

- use radios and our established communication systems so help and medication can be reached quickly when children are moving around the site.

Blanket bans on particular foods are not, by themselves, a guarantee of safety. Where a specific restriction is necessary for an individual child, this will be based on risk assessment and communicated clearly.

6. Food, catering and celebrations

We work with our catering provider to make sure accurate allergen information is available and special dietary requirements are managed safely. The 14 regulated allergens are: cereals containing gluten, crustaceans, eggs, fish, peanuts, soybeans, milk, nuts, celery, mustard, sesame, sulphur dioxide and sulphites, lupin and molluscs.

Staff must never guess whether food is safe. If ingredients or preparation cannot be confirmed, the food will not be given to a child with a known allergy.

Where school staff prepare or provide food, they must check labels each time, follow the child's IHP and dietary requirements, consider cross-contact and follow agreed hygiene and preparation procedures.

For food brought in for celebrations or events, the needs of pupils with allergies will be considered in advance. Suitable alternatives may be agreed with families. Children will not be excluded from celebrations simply because they have an allergy.

Any PPDS food supplied by the school or catering provider must meet the applicable labelling requirements, including a full ingredients list with regulated allergens emphasised.

7. Adrenaline auto-injectors and emergency medication

Children who have been prescribed an AAI must have their own medication available in school in line with their IHP and Allergy Action Plan. Parents/carers are responsible for supplying prescribed medication in date, clearly labelled and with the appropriate instructions.

Steeton also keeps spare AAIs in line with current statutory requirements and guidance. Emergency medication must be clearly identified, stored appropriately and accessible without delay.

Our arrangements reflect the layout of our site. Staff know where emergency medication is held in the building in which the child is based. Whole-school spare AAIs are available in the main office and in The Burrow (Mrs Kennedy and Miss Wilson's room). Where an individual child's plan requires medication to move with them, this will be built into their daily arrangements, including lunchtime.

Medication must never be locked away in a way that prevents rapid access. All staff must know how to summon help immediately.

8. Responding to an allergic reaction

If anaphylaxis is suspected, staff must act immediately. Do not wait for symptoms to become more severe.

1. Stay with the child and call for help.
2. Follow the child's Allergy Action Plan and IHP where available.
3. Administer adrenaline immediately when anaphylaxis is suspected, using the child's prescribed AAI or a school spare AAI as permitted by current guidance.
4. Call 999 and say that anaphylaxis is suspected.
5. Follow the emergency plan and the instructions of the ambulance service, including any requirement for a further dose.
6. Keep the child under close supervision and position them appropriately while waiting for emergency services.
7. Inform parents/carers as soon as reasonably possible.
8. Record the incident and ensure it is reviewed.

If in doubt, treat suspected anaphylaxis as an emergency.

9. Trips, clubs, sport and wider school life

Allergy arrangements apply wherever children are in our care - not only in the classroom. This includes PE, Forest School, outdoor learning, breakfast and after-school provision, performances, sporting events, residentials and educational visits.

Before an off-site activity, the lead adult will check relevant IHPs and Allergy Action Plans, make sure required medication is taken, identify who is responsible for it, consider food and emergency arrangements and ensure adults know how to respond.

A child will not be unnecessarily excluded from a trip, club, activity or experience because of an allergy. Reasonable planning and adjustment should enable participation wherever possible.

10. Training, communication and responsibilities

All staff will receive allergy awareness training appropriate to their role. Training will cover recognising allergic reactions and anaphylaxis, reducing exposure, emergency response, the use and location of medication and the importance of individual plans. Staff who may administer adrenaline will receive appropriate practical instruction. We use National College and 'Home and Away'.

The Headteacher / Designated Allergy Lead will oversee this policy, staff training, allergy records, IHP arrangements, emergency medication and the review of incidents and near misses.

All staff are expected to know the children they work with, follow individual plans, reduce avoidable risks, know how to get emergency help and seek advice rather than make assumptions.

Teachers and support staff will ensure relevant information is passed to adults working with the child, including supply, temporary and visiting staff. Catering staff will follow agreed allergen procedures, provide accurate information and minimise avoidable cross-contact.

Parents and carers are essential partners. They should provide accurate, up-to-date information, replacement medication before expiry, current Allergy Action Plans and prompt notice of any change.

11. Incidents, near misses and learning

Significant allergic reactions, administration of emergency medication and relevant near misses will be recorded and reviewed. We use CPOMS and children's own individual recording systems.

The purpose of review is not to apportion blame. It is to learn. We will consider whether anything needs to change in training, individual plans, risk assessment, food arrangements, supervision, communication, medication access or emergency procedures.

Learning from near misses is particularly important because it allows us to strengthen systems before harm occurs. Significant allergic reactions and near misses, along with any learning and subsequent changes to practice, will be brought to The Governors at the next meeting.

12. Inclusion and wellbeing

Living with an allergy can affect a child's confidence and sense of belonging. We will manage allergies discreetly, respectfully and without making a child feel different.

Children should feel confident that adults understand their needs and will take concerns seriously. As children grow, we will support them to develop age-appropriate understanding and independence while recognising that responsibility for safety remains with the adults caring for them.

Allergy management must never become a reason for routine isolation, unnecessary restriction or reduced access to school life.

13. Record keeping, monitoring and review

We will maintain appropriate records, including the allergy register, IHPs, Allergy Action Plans, medication and expiry information, staff training, significant incidents and relevant near misses. Information will be handled confidentially and shared on a need-to-know basis for safety.

This policy will be reviewed at least annually and sooner if statutory guidance changes, a serious incident or near miss identifies a need, a pupil's needs change or school procedures are amended.

The policy will be published on the school website and brought to the attention of staff, pupils and parents/carers in line with statutory requirements.

**At Steeton, every child deserves to feel safe, included, understood and able to take part.
Clear systems, confident adults and prompt action are central to making that happen.**