



THORNGUMBALD
PRIMARY

Allergy Safety Policy

Issue Date: Autumn 2026
Review Date: Autumn 2027

Applies to: All pupils, staff, volunteers, visitors and anyone working on behalf of the school

Our Approach

At Thorngumbald Primary School, we want every child to feel safe, known, valued and able to shine.

We recognise that allergies can affect children in different ways and that, for some children, exposure to an allergen can result in a life-threatening reaction. We therefore take allergy safety seriously while ensuring that children with allergies are able to participate as fully as possible in school life.

Our approach is built around:

- **knowing our children and understanding their individual needs;**
- working in partnership with parents/carers and healthcare professionals;
- reducing avoidable exposure to known allergens;
- ensuring staff know how to recognise and respond to an allergic reaction;
- making sure emergency medication is available and accessible;
- planning carefully for everyday school life, including lessons, lunchtime, playtimes, trips, PE, residential and celebrations;
- learning from incidents and near misses; and
- supporting children with allergies without unnecessarily restricting their participation or making them feel different.

We recognise that it is not possible to guarantee an allergen-free environment. Our aim is therefore to create an allergy-aware environment, identify and reduce avoidable risks, and ensure that robust emergency arrangements are in place.

Legal and Statutory Framework

This policy has been developed with regard to the current statutory and regulatory framework, including:

- Children and Families Act 2014, including the statutory duty to support pupils with medical conditions;
- Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, including the statutory requirement for schools to have an allergy safety policy;
- Allergy Safety in Schools: Statutory Guidance (Department for Education, July 2026);
- ****School Food Standards: Allergy Guide**** (Department for Education, September 2026);
- Food Information Regulations 2014, including requirements relating to allergen information;

- Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions: statutory guidance and subsequent relevant updates;
- relevant health and safety, safeguarding and equality duties.

Responsibilities

Governing Body

The governing body is responsible for ensuring that appropriate arrangements are in place to support pupils with allergies and that this policy is reviewed at least annually.

Governors will seek assurance that:

- allergy safety arrangements are implemented effectively;
- staff receive appropriate training;
- emergency medication arrangements are robust;
- incidents and near misses are recorded and reviewed;
- the school considers learning from incidents and makes improvements where necessary.

Headteacher

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for implementation of this policy and for ensuring that:

- the school has effective allergy-safety arrangements;
- staff understand their responsibilities;
- appropriate training is provided;
- Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) are developed where required;
- emergency medication is appropriately stored and accessible;
- parents/carers are kept informed;
- incidents and near misses are recorded, investigated and used to inform improvements;
- this policy is reviewed annually.

Designated member of staff

The school will identify a member of staff with responsibility for coordinating allergy arrangements.

Their role will include:

- maintaining an accurate record of pupils with allergies;
- ensuring relevant IHPs and allergy action plans are accessible to appropriate staff;
- coordinating staff training;

- checking emergency medication arrangements;
- liaising with parents/carers and healthcare professionals where appropriate;
- supporting risk assessment and planning;
- maintaining records of incidents, near misses and actions taken.

All staff

All staff, including teachers, teaching assistants, lunchtime staff, office staff, wraparound staff, volunteers and other adults working regularly with pupils, have a responsibility to:

- understand that pupils may have allergies;
- complete the school's required allergy-awareness training;
- know how to recognise the signs of an allergic reaction;
- know how to access and use emergency medication where trained and authorised;
- follow pupils' IHPs and emergency plans;
- take reasonable steps to reduce avoidable allergen exposure;
- report concerns, incidents and near misses promptly.

All staff must take allergy information seriously and must not assume that another member of staff will deal with an emerging concern.

Identifying Pupils with Allergies

Parents/carers are asked to inform the school as soon as possible if their child:

- has a diagnosed allergy;
- has previously experienced anaphylaxis;
- has been prescribed an adrenaline auto-injector (AAI);
- develops symptoms which may indicate an allergy;
- has a change in their allergy, medication or emergency treatment.

Parents/carers should provide accurate and up-to-date information about:

- the known allergen(s);
- symptoms and signs of an allergic reaction;
- emergency medication;
- the child's individual allergy action plan, where provided by a healthcare professional;
- any specific advice from healthcare professionals.

The school will not assume that information provided previously remains current. Parents/carers are expected to tell the school about significant changes.

Where a child requires an Individual Healthcare Plan, this will be developed with the parent/carer and, where appropriate, relevant healthcare professionals.

Individual Healthcare Plans

An IHP will be considered where a pupil's allergy requires specific support, emergency medication or arrangements beyond routine school practice.

An IHP may include:

- the child's diagnosed allergy;
- known triggers;
- signs and symptoms of a reaction;
- emergency treatment;
- location of the child's prescribed medication;
- arrangements for accessing medication;
- emergency procedures;
- arrangements for PE, educational visits, residentials and other activities;
- any reasonable adjustments required;
- information about the child's participation and independence.

IHPs will be reviewed:

- annually as a minimum;
- following a significant allergic reaction or near miss;
- following a change in diagnosis or treatment;
- when medication changes;
- when a healthcare professional recommends a change;
- when the school or family identifies those arrangements need to be amended.

Allergy Awareness Training

All staff will receive allergy-awareness training appropriate to their role.

Training will include:

- what allergies are;
- common allergens;
- the difference between an allergic reaction and anaphylaxis;
- common signs and symptoms;
- the importance of acting promptly;
- how to reduce avoidable allergen exposure;
- the school's emergency procedures;
- the location and use of emergency adrenaline devices;
- the importance of following individual healthcare plans;

- recording and reporting incidents and near misses.

Training will be refreshed in line with current statutory guidance and whenever there is a significant change in national guidance or the school's arrangements.

New staff and regular volunteers will receive appropriate information as part of induction. Records of training will be maintained.

Reducing the Risk of Allergen Exposure

We recognise that it is not possible to remove every allergen from a school environment.

We therefore focus on **allergy awareness and proportionate risk reduction**, rather than claiming that the school is completely allergen-free.

Measures may include:

- making relevant staff aware of pupils' known allergies;
- following individual healthcare plans;
- ensuring food allergens are identified;
- maintaining appropriate hygiene arrangements;
- encouraging children to wash hands before and after eating;
- taking care when food is prepared, handled or shared;
- ensuring food provided by the school or caterer has appropriate allergen information;
- checking ingredients when products or suppliers change;
- considering allergen risks during curriculum activities;
- considering allergy risks during educational visits, residentials and special events;
- ensuring appropriate emergency medication is accessible.

The school will not describe itself as a nut-free school. Instead, Thorngumbald operates an allergy-aware approach, recognising that blanket restrictions cannot guarantee the absence of allergens.

Food and School Meals

The school works with its catering arrangements to ensure that allergen information is available for food provided to pupils.

The school and catering provider will:

- identify the allergens present in meals;
- provide appropriate allergen information;
- check product labels and supplier information;

- consider the needs of pupils with allergies when menus change;
- ensure that substitutions do not inadvertently introduce a known allergen;
- maintain appropriate procedures for preparing and serving food safely.

Where food is provided at school events, the school will consider known allergies and communicate appropriate arrangements.

The current DfE guidance requires schools and caterers to ensure that special dietary needs, including allergies, continue to be considered when menus or products change.

Food brought into School

We ask families to help us maintain an allergy-aware environment.

Food brought into school should not contain **peanuts or nuts where this food is intended to be eaten on school premises**, unless specifically agreed with the school for an identified reason. However, families should understand that this does not make the school environment completely nut-free or allergen-free.

Children should not share food with other pupils unless this has been specifically planned and agreed by the school.

Staff will take particular care when food is used as part of curriculum activities, celebrations, clubs or other school events.

Celebrations and Birthday Treats

We want children to enjoy celebrations while ensuring that these are inclusive and safe. Parents/carers should not send homemade food into school for pupils to eat as birthday treats or celebrations unless this has been agreed in advance.

Where families wish to send birthday treats, these will normally be sent home rather than eaten in school.

School-organised events involving food will consider known allergies and appropriate allergen information.

We recognise that some children may have multiple allergies, intolerances or other dietary requirements. Our aim is to ensure that no child is unnecessarily excluded from celebrations or made to feel different because of their medical needs.

Adrenaline Auto-Injectors

Where a pupil has been prescribed an adrenaline auto-injector, parents/carers must provide the prescribed device(s) to the school in accordance with the child's IHP and emergency plan.

AAls must:

- be in date;
- be clearly labelled;
- be stored so they are immediately accessible;
- be replaced promptly when used or expired.

The school will maintain appropriate arrangements for emergency AAls in accordance with current statutory guidance.

Staff will be trained to recognise anaphylaxis and understand the emergency response, including the use of adrenaline devices.

In a suspected case of anaphylaxis, staff will follow the child's emergency plan and current statutory guidance. Emergency medical assistance will be sought without delay.

Where clinically appropriate and in accordance with current guidance, an emergency adrenaline device may be used even where the pupil's own prescribed device is unavailable.

Spare Adrenaline Auto-Injectors

The school will maintain a supply of spare adrenaline auto-injectors for emergency use in accordance with current national requirements and guidance.

Spare AAls will be:

- stored securely but readily accessible;
- clearly identified;
- checked regularly for expiry;
- checked for damage or faults;
- stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions;
- recorded when received, checked or used.

The school will maintain the appropriate consent and record-keeping arrangements required for emergency use.

Staff will know where the spare AAls are located and how to access them.

Recognising and Responding to an Allergic Reaction

All staff should be alert to the possibility of an allergic reaction.

Symptoms can vary and may include:

- swelling of the lips, mouth, tongue or throat;
- difficulty breathing or wheezing;
- changes in voice;
- difficulty swallowing;
- dizziness, collapse or loss of consciousness;
- widespread rash or hives;
- vomiting or abdominal symptoms;
- sudden distress or a feeling that something is seriously wrong.

A severe allergic reaction can develop rapidly.

Staff must follow the child's individual emergency plan where one is available and seek emergency medical assistance when anaphylaxis is suspected.

Adrenaline should not be delayed where anaphylaxis is suspected.

The school's allergy-awareness training and emergency procedures will provide staff with the detailed response expected in an emergency.

Medication

The management and administration of medication is covered in greater detail in the school's Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.

Where medication is required for an allergy, the school will ensure that:

- appropriate parental consent is obtained;
- medication is correctly labelled;
- medication is in date;
- appropriate staff know how and when it should be administered;
- medication is readily accessible;
- administration is recorded;
- parents/carers are informed of significant medication incidents.

Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that prescribed medication and devices supplied to school remain in date and are replaced when required. The school will work with families where a child needs support to manage their own medication.