CHILCOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL

ALLERGY POLICY

Policy Statement
Chilcote School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all pupils, staff and visitors. We recognise that allergies are increasingly common and that severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) can occur without warning.

The school will take all reasonable steps to minimise the risk of exposure to known allergens whilst ensuring that pupils with allergies are able to participate fully in every aspect of school life.
We recognise that effective allergy management is a shared responsibility between the school, parents, healthcare professionals and pupils themselves.

This policy has been prepared in accordance with section 34 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 and the Department for Education statutory guidance Allergy safety in schools, effective from September 2026. These protections are commonly referred to as Benedict's Law.

Under Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014, **schools have a statutory duty to support pupils with medical conditions, including allergies.**

Aims
The aims of this policy are to:

- safeguard pupils with allergies
- reduce the risk of accidental exposure to allergens
- ensure staff understand their responsibilities
- provide a prompt and effective emergency response
- promote awareness of allergies across the school community
- ensure pupils with allergies are fully included in all aspects of school life and
- meet statutory safeguarding, health and safety and equality duties.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- all children;
- all employees;
- volunteers;
- contractors;
- visitors;
- breakfast and after-school clubs;
- educational visits;
- residential visits;
- sporting activities

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Board will:

- approve this policy, ensure that it is published on the school website and review it at least annually, following a serious incident or near miss, and whenever statutory guidance changes;
- monitor its implementation;
- ensure appropriate resources are available
- receive reports following any significant allergy incident or near miss and assure itself that identified learning and actions have been completed.

The Headteacher will:

- ensure this policy is implemented consistently
- appoint Designated Allergy Leads (Mrs Wishart and Mrs Sanghera)
- ensure that every member of staff receives allergy awareness and emergency-response training on induction and at least annually, with completion records maintained;
- promote a whole-school approach to allergy awareness; and
- ensure suitable arrangements are in place for pupils with medical needs.
- The Headteacher retains overall accountability for allergy safety.

Designated Allergy Leads are collectively responsible for:

- maintaining the school allergy register
- liaising with parents and healthcare professionals iro IHC
- in conjunction with the Headteacher, arranging and recording annual allergy training and induction for new staff
- making reasonable efforts to monitor medication held in school and alert parents if expiry dates are approaching; however, responsibility for ensuring medication remains in date and replacing expired medication rests with parents/carers
- maintaining emergency adrenaline auto-injectors
- in conjunction with the Leadership Team, reviewing allergy incidents and identifying improvements

All staff are expected to:

- know which pupils have allergies;
- understand relevant Individual Healthcare Plans;
- complete allergy training on induction and at least annually
- recognise the signs of allergic reactions and anaphylaxis;
- reduce unnecessary exposure to allergens during lessons and activities;
- supervise pupils appropriately during meal/eating times

- follow the school's emergency procedures immediately if an allergic reaction is suspected.

Staff and regular visitors will be encouraged to inform the Headteacher or Designated Allergy Leads of any allergy that may require emergency arrangements. Appropriate information will be recorded and shared confidentially with relevant personnel.

Parents and carers are responsible for:

- informing the school of their child's allergies
- providing at least ONE IN-DATE PRESCRIBED adrenaline auto-injectors of the correct dose where required, together with a current Allergy Action Plan
- ensuring medication is replaced before it expires
- ensure plans are reviewed annually with relevant medical professional, informing school of any changes to medical advice
- providing emergency contact details
- working in partnership with the school to manage their child's allergies

Children

Where appropriate for their age and understanding, pupils are encouraged to:

- understand their allergies;
- wear their purple lanyards at agreed times
- avoid sharing food;
- tell an adult immediately if they feel unwell;
- carry prescribed medication where agreed within their Healthcare Plan; and
- know how and where to obtain their prescribed devices immediately, with increasing self-management encouraged where this is safe and recorded in the IHP.
- For children within the Early Years Foundation Stage, the school will also comply with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage for school-based providers, effective from 1 September 2026

School Catering and Allergen Management

The school provides an in-house lunchtime catering service which is supported by a specialist Catering Management Consultant (CMC). CMC works with the school to ensure a robust and consistently applied allergen management system is in place.

At Chilcote Primary School, allergen management is embedded within everyday catering practice and is regularly monitored to ensure that pupils with food allergies can access school meals safely.

The school catering service will ensure:

- Compliance with the Food Information Regulations 2014 and the Food Information (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2019 for prepacked-for-direct-sale food, commonly known as Natasha’s Law.
- A clear and consistent allergen management process.
- Procedures are in place to minimise the risk of cross-contamination during food preparation, service and handling.
- Ensure accurate and accessible allergen information is available for pupils, staff and parents/carers.

The school will ensure that allergen management forms part of everyday catering practice through regular training, monitoring and review in partnership with the Catering Management Consultant.

Where required, reasonable adjustments will be made to enable pupils with allergies to safely access school meals in accordance with their Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP).

Further operational guidance can be found in the **CMC Allergen Management Procedure**, which is available in the school kitchen.

Individual Healthcare Plans
Where required, an IHP will be drawn up with parents/carers and relevant healthcare professionals and will be supported by the pupil's current Allergy Action Plan.

Where a parent/carer reports an allergy, the school will seek appropriate medical evidence from a regulated healthcare professional. Necessary interim safety arrangements will be agreed immediately with the parent/carer and will not be delayed while evidence or an IHP is being obtained.

Healthcare Plans will include:

- allergens
- symptoms;
- prescribed medication;
- emergency procedures;
- location of medication;
- emergency contacts; and
- review dates.

Plans will be accessible to staff who need them.

Information relating to pupils with allergies, including photographs and health information, will be recorded and shared only where necessary to protect the pupil. It will be stored securely and processed in accordance with the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018. Access will be limited to staff and catering personnel who need the information, while ensuring that emergency information remains readily available.

Allergy Register
The school will maintain an up-to-date allergy register containing details of pupils with diagnosed allergies. The register will include:

- pupil photograph;
- allergens;
- medication;
- Individual Healthcare Plan location (if relevant)
- emergency contacts
- the current consent and authorisation arrangements for use of a spare adrenaline auto-injector.

Reducing the Risk of Exposure

The school recognises that it cannot mitigate all factors in relation to creating an allergen-free environment. Instead, we will take reasonable steps to reduce risk by promoting good hygiene and safe working practices.
These include: encouraging handwashing before and after eating; prohibiting food sharing; cleaning tables before and after meals; supervising younger children during lunch/snack time; considering allergens when planning curriculum activities; completing risk assessments where appropriate and working closely with catering providers to minimise cross-contamination.

Risk controls will consider ingestion, skin contact and, where clinically relevant, airborne exposure. Curriculum materials, cooking, celebrations, animals, gardening and cleaning products will be checked against individual children's risks.

Parents are asked not to:

1. Send products containing whole nuts, peanut butter, nut-based snack bars or sesame products into school wherever possible.
2. Bring in party bags or similar for distribution at school

Wellbeing, Inclusion and Equality
The school will support children who experience allergy-related anxiety and will ensure that they can participate safely in education, meals, clubs and visits. Allergy-related bullying, teasing, deliberate exposure to an allergen or pressure to eat unsafe food will be addressed promptly under the Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies.

Where an allergy amounts to a disability, the school will comply with the Equality Act 2010 and make reasonable adjustments. Children will be involved in decisions in a manner appropriate to their age and understanding and will not be unnecessarily singled out.

Risk Assessment
Individual allergy risk assessments will be completed where appropriate, for example: cooking activities; science investigations; gardening; animal visits; educational visits; celebrations involving food

Educational visits and off-site activities
Before any educational visit, residential trip, sporting activity or off-site event, the visit leader will review the child's IHP and include individual risks on the risk assessment proforma. The risk assessment will address food and accommodation, travel, communication, the location of emergency medication and access by emergency services. Medication will remain immediately accessible.
The child's prescribed adrenaline device will accompany them and a member of staff trained and confident in their use will be present. School will always ensure a spare injector pen is available.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE
If anaphylaxis is suspected, staff must act immediately. If in doubt, give adrenaline. Treatment and the 999 call must never be delayed while seeking parental contact.

- Administer the child's prescribed adrenaline auto-injector without delay; use a suitable spare device if the prescribed device is unavailable.

- Call 999 immediately and state clearly: "anaphylaxis". Give the school location, child's condition and treatment administered.

- Keep the child lying down with legs raised where appropriate. If breathing is difficult, allow them to sit with legs extended. Do not allow them to stand or walk.

- A member of staff must stay with the child. Send another adult to collect the second device, meet the ambulance and contact parents/carers.

- If there is no improvement, administer a second adrenaline auto-injector five minutes after the first, using the correct dose and a new device.

- Locate a First Aider and start CPR if the child becomes unresponsive and is not breathing normally, following the emergency call handler's instructions.

- The child must be transferred to hospital for medical assessment even if symptoms improve. Their used devices, IHP and relevant information should accompany them.

Spare adrenaline auto-injectors
The school will maintain suitable spare adrenaline auto-injector kits in accordance with the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, relevant regulations and current Department for Education guidance. They will be used only in accordance with current statutory conditions, the pupil's medical authorisation and applicable consent arrangements.

- Spare devices will be held in clearly labelled kits, in pairs and in the appropriate doses for the children on roll and will be stored at room temperature in the MAIN OFFICE

- Arrangements will ensure that a suitable device can reach any child within five minutes, including in classrooms, dining areas, playgrounds and sports facilities.

- The **Designated Allergy Lead** will record half termly checks of quantity, condition and expiry dates and notify parents/carers about timely replacement. The school will ensure safe disposal of used or expired school stock.

- Should it be required, arrangements for prescribed and spare emergency inhalers are set out in the school's 'Supporting Children with Medical Conditions' Policy

Recording incidents
All allergic reactions, uses of adrenaline, serious incidents and near misses will be recorded promptly. Parents/carers, the Designated Allergy Leads and Headteacher will be informed.
A structured debrief will identify contributory factors, lessons and required actions; serious matters will be reported through the school's safeguarding, health and safety, governance and external reporting routes as applicable.
Parents/carers are also asked to report significant reactions occurring outside school where these may affect school arrangements.

Any concerns or complaints regarding the implementation of this policy should initially be raised with the Headteacher and will be considered under the school's Complaints Policy.

Policy adoption date: September 2026

Policy review date: September 2027