

Moorside Primary School



Allergy Safety Policy



MOORSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

PURPOSE, VISION & VALUES

Our Purpose

Moorside Primary is a school at the heart of our diverse community in the West End of Newcastle.

We pride ourselves in being a caring school community where everyone is welcome.

We strive to deliver an outstanding education for all our children.

We help everyone to become caring and active citizens

We encourage everyone to thrive and achieve their full potential.

Our Vision

We want everyone in our school to work together to make us as good as any school can be.

We want to create new opportunities for everyone to succeed.

We want to create a culture, which broadens all of our horizons.

We want everyone to be able to tackle the challenges we will face in an ever-changing world.

We want all of our children to effectively engage with each other and with our community.

Our values

We all believe that

Our local community deserves a school they can be proud of

We are a caring community where everyone is welcome

We all value, respect and support each other

Our community has the right to be safe and healthy.

Our children should have the chance to enjoy and be enthused by their time in our school

We all work together to make sure that

Everyone always tries their best and take pride in all that they do.

Everyone demonstrates good manners at all times.

Everyone respects each other and show consideration.

Everyone respects and cares for our environment and resources.

Everyone celebrates each other's successes and achievements.



Statement of Intent

At Moorside Primary School, we recognise our responsibilities under Benedict's Law and the Department for Education's Allergy Safety in Schools guidance. We are committed to ensuring that children and staff with allergies are safe, supported and fully included in all aspects of school life.

Benedict's Law, this is the new allergy safety legislation and statutory guidance for schools in England, introduced following the death of five-year-old Benedict Blythe from anaphylaxis at school in 2021. The law aims to ensure consistent allergy management and emergency response arrangements in all schools. [\[gov.uk\]](https://www.gov.uk), [\[benedictblythe.com\]](https://www.benedictblythe.com)

We are committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all children, including those with food allergies and other serious allergic conditions. We recognise that allergies can have a significant impact on a child's health, wellbeing and ability to participate fully in school life. We are dedicated to ensuring that children with allergies are protected from avoidable risks while remaining fully included in all aspects of education, including lessons, educational visits, school meals and participation in clubs and enrichment activities. Through staff training, individual healthcare plans, emergency procedures, appropriate medication storage and ongoing engagement with children and parents/carers, we work to minimise risk while promoting participation, independence and wellbeing for all children.

[\[gov.uk\]](https://www.gov.uk), [\[benedictblythe.com\]](https://www.benedictblythe.com)

Moorside Primary School aim for all staff to be First Aid trained and have a comprehensive training schedule. A list of all trained staff is displayed in the school foyer and is updated regularly. Training is kept up to date and qualifications are regularly renewed.

This policy outlines the measures the school takes to prevent allergic reactions, respond effectively to emergencies and meet its responsibilities under current statutory guidance relating to allergy safety in schools.

This policy aligns with:

- Department for Education (DfE) statutory responsibilities for supporting pupils with medical conditions
- The Children and Families Act 2014 (Section 100)
- 2026 strengthened allergy guidance (commonly referred to as Benedict's Law)

From September 2026, schools are expected to maintain robust allergy management, trained staff, emergency medication access, and clear policies.

Aims

The school aims to:

- Support children and staff with allergies so they can participate fully in school life.
- Minimise the risk of exposure to known allergens.
- Ensure all staff can recognise and respond appropriately to allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
- Maintain effective communication with parents, carers and healthcare professionals.
- Promote awareness, understanding and inclusion across the school community.
- Ensure appropriate emergency medication and procedures are in place at all times.
- Meet statutory requirements for allergy safety in schools.

Roles and Responsibilities

Head Teacher and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

The Head Teacher and SLT will:

- Ensure implementation of this policy.
- Ensure sufficient staff training is provided.
- Allocate resources to support children with allergies.
- Monitor compliance with allergy procedures.

- Coordinate allergy management across the school.
- Maintain records of children and staff with allergies.
- Ensure Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) are reviewed regularly.
- Liaise with families and external professionals.
- Monitor staff training and emergency procedures.

All Staff

All staff will:

- Be aware of those with allergies.
- Follow Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Attend mandatory allergy and anaphylaxis training.
- Know how to recognise symptoms of allergic reactions.
- Act promptly in emergencies.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are expected to:

- Inform the school of any allergy diagnosis.
- Provide prescribed medication where required.
- Ensure medication remains in date.
- Work in partnership with the school to develop and review support plans.
- Notify the school of any changes to their child's condition.

Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

The school will maintain an Individual Healthcare Plan for children and staff with diagnosed allergies where necessary.

Plans will include:

- Confirmed allergens.
- Typical symptoms.
- Emergency procedures.
- Medication requirements.
- Contact details.
- Information on educational visits and extracurricular participation.

Plans will be reviewed at least annually and whenever medical needs change.

Staff Training

All staff likely to be on site when children are present will receive allergy awareness and anaphylaxis training.

Training will cover:

- Identifying allergic reactions.
- Recognising anaphylaxis.
- Administering adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs).
- Emergency response procedures.
- Inclusion and allergy awareness.

Training records will be maintained by the school.

Allergy Prevention and Risk Reduction

While no school can guarantee an allergen-free environment, we will take reasonable steps to reduce risks. These include:

- Sharing relevant information with staff on a need-to-know basis.
- Risk assessing classroom activities involving food.
- Monitoring ingredients used in cooking activities.
- Implementing safe food handling procedures.
- Communicating with catering providers regarding dietary requirements.

- Ensuring educational visits are appropriately planned.
- Promoting handwashing before and after meals.
- Cleaning tables and eating areas thoroughly.

Food and Catering

- Follow Food Information Regulations (allergen labelling requirements).
- Ensure allergens are clearly identified in meals.
- Prevent cross-contamination wherever possible.
- As a school, we must ensure children with allergies can safely access meals and that allergen information is available.

The school is a no nut and no kiwi school and other than this we will not generally operate blanket food bans although we may need on occasions have to implement specific restrictions following individual risk assessments.

Emergency Medication

The school will:

- Store prescribed AAls appropriately and accessibly.
- Hold spare emergency AAls where permitted.
- Ensure medication can be reached quickly in an emergency.
- Monitor expiry dates and replacement arrangements.
- Maintain records of medication administration.

Responding to Allergic Reactions

Staff will act immediately if a child shows signs of an allergic reaction.

Mild to Moderate Symptoms

These may include:

- Itching.
- Hives or rash.
- Swelling of lips or face.
- Abdominal pain.
- Nausea.

Staff will follow the child's healthcare plan and seek medical assistance as appropriate.

Anaphylaxis

Symptoms may include:

- Difficulty breathing.
- Wheezing.
- Swelling of the throat.
- Persistent cough.
- Collapse or loss of consciousness.

In the event of suspected anaphylaxis:

- Administer an adrenaline auto-injector immediately.
- Call 999 and state "anaphylaxis."
- Contact parents/carers.
- Monitor the child until emergency services arrive.
- Record and review the incident.

Educational Visits and Off-Site Activities

All educational visits will be risk assessed to ensure children with allergies can participate safely.

This may include:

- Carrying emergency medication.
- Ensuring trained staff are present.

- Liaising with venues and transport providers.
- Reviewing food arrangements.
- Sharing healthcare plans where appropriate.

When children attend educational visits, sporting events or off-site activities, a trained member of staff will ensure that emergency medication accompanies the child and remains readily accessible throughout the visit. The school is committed to ensuring children with allergies are fully included in all activities wherever reasonably possible.

Inclusion and Anti-Bullying

The school recognises that children with allergies may experience anxiety, isolation or bullying.

We will:

- Promote understanding of allergies among children.
- Challenge discriminatory behaviour.
- Support children's emotional well-being.
- Encourage a culture of respect and inclusion.
- Ensure allergy-related needs do not unnecessarily restrict participation in school life.

Monitoring, Feedback and Learn from Incidents

Record allergic reactions, near misses and emergency responses.

Use findings to improve practice and reduce future risks.

[\[gov.uk\]](http://gov.uk), allergyschool.org.uk

We recognise that allergy management is an evolving area of practice.

Feedback will be gathered from:

- Children.
- Parents and carers.
- Staff.
- Governors.
- Healthcare professionals.

Methods may include:

- Parent/Carer consultations.
- Annual reviews.
- Surveys and questionnaires.
- Pupil voice activities.
- Incident reviews.
- Governor monitoring visits.

Any allergic reactions, emergencies or near misses will be reviewed to identify lessons learned and improve future practice.

Complaints

Concerns regarding allergy provision should initially be raised with the Head Teacher. Complaints will be managed in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if legislation, statutory guidance or school circumstances change.

Storage of Emergency Medication

Emergency medication will be stored securely whilst remaining readily accessible to trained staff at all times. Adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs), such as EpiPens, and other prescribed emergency medication will be kept in clearly identified locations that are known to all relevant staff. Medication will never be locked away if doing so could delay access during an emergency.

The school will maintain spare emergency AAIs in accordance with statutory guidance. These will be stored in a central, easily accessible location and, where appropriate, additional devices may be located around the school site to ensure they can be accessed rapidly in an emergency.

A register of emergency medication will be maintained, including expiry dates and storage locations. The Named Allergy Lead will conduct regular checks to ensure medication remains in date, is stored correctly and is immediately available when required. Expired medication will be replaced promptly.

Storage location

At Moorside Primary School, children's AAIs are stored in the Head Teacher's room in a safe cabinet and can be accessed within five minutes from any location on site.

Children with Multiple Allergies

The school recognises that some children may have multiple allergies, which can increase the complexity of risk management and emergency planning. In these cases, a detailed Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) will be developed in partnership with parents/carers and relevant healthcare professionals. The plan will clearly identify all known allergens, potential triggers, symptoms, preventative measures and emergency procedures.

Risk assessments will take account of all identified allergies and will consider classroom activities, school meals, educational visits, extracurricular activities and any other situations where exposure may occur. Staff working with the child will receive appropriate information and training to ensure they understand the child's individual needs and the actions required in an emergency.

Where a child has multiple severe allergies, the school will work closely with families and external professionals to implement appropriate control measures while maintaining the child's full inclusion in school life. Adjustments may include alternative resources for curriculum activities, enhanced supervision during mealtimes, additional staff training and tailored arrangements for trips and visits.

Emergency medication will be readily available at all times, and staff will follow the child's Individual Healthcare Plan if an allergic reaction occurs. The school will review arrangements regularly and whenever there is a change in the child's medical needs.

For example, a child with allergies to milk, egg and nuts may require separate meal planning, carefully selected classroom resources for cooking and craft activities, enhanced checks before educational visits and specific emergency procedures shared with all relevant staff. These measures help ensure the child remains safe while participating fully alongside their peers.

Documenting Multiple Allergies

Where a child has multiple allergies, all allergies and associated risks will be clearly documented within the child's Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP). The plan will provide detailed information on each allergen, the severity of past reactions, known triggers, signs and symptoms, required medication, emergency procedures and key contacts. The IHP will be

developed in partnership with parents, carers and relevant healthcare professionals and reviewed at least annually, or sooner if there is a change in the child's medical needs.

A summary of essential allergy information will be made available to relevant staff on a need-to-know basis. This may include photographs, allergen alerts, details of medication requirements and emergency response instructions. Information will be stored and shared in accordance with data protection requirements whilst ensuring staff have immediate access to the information needed to keep children safe.

Risk assessments for lessons, educational visits, enrichment activities and school meals will reference all identified allergies to ensure appropriate control measures are in place. Where necessary, the school will maintain records of allergens present in curriculum activities, catering arrangements and special events to reduce the risk of accidental exposure.

Information Recorded in an IHP

- Child's name, photograph and date of birth.
- Details of all diagnosed allergies.
- Severity of each allergy.
- Known triggers and avoidance strategies.
- Early and severe symptoms of a reaction.
- Location of prescribed medication.
- Instructions for administering medication.
- Emergency contacts.
- Arrangements for school meals, trips and extracurricular activities.
- Date of review and responsible staff member.

This approach ensures that staff can quickly identify and respond to the needs of children with multiple allergies while supporting their full inclusion in school life.

Management of Emergency Contacts

The school will maintain accurate and up-to-date emergency contact information for all children with allergies. Parents and carers are responsible for providing at least two emergency contact numbers and informing the school immediately of any changes to contact details, medical information or treatment requirements.

Emergency contact information will be recorded within the child's Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP), the school's management information system and, where appropriate, alongside emergency medication records. Relevant staff will have access to this information to ensure a prompt response in the event of an allergic reaction or medical emergency.

In the event of a serious allergic reaction or suspected anaphylaxis, staff will administer emergency treatment in accordance with the child's healthcare plan and call 999 immediately. Parents/Carers will then be contacted as soon as practicable. Contacting parents will never delay the administration of medication or the calling of emergency services.

The Named Allergy Lead will review emergency contact information at least annually and whenever there is a change in a child's medical needs. Contact details will also be checked before educational visits, residential visits and other off-site activities to ensure records remain accurate.

Where parents/carers cannot be reached, the school will continue to follow emergency medical advice and procedures, always acting in the best interests of the child.

If Emergency Contacts Are Unreachable

The safety and well-being of the child will always be the school's primary concern. If a child experiences an allergic reaction and emergency contacts cannot be reached, staff will continue to follow the child's Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP), administer emergency medication where required and seek appropriate medical assistance without delay. In cases of suspected anaphylaxis, emergency services will be called immediately and treatment provided in accordance with the child's healthcare plan and staff training.

The school will make repeated attempts to contact parents/carers and any additional emergency contacts recorded on the child's records. However, the inability to contact a parent/carer will never delay emergency treatment or the involvement of medical professionals.

Where a child is transferred to hospital, a member of staff will accompany the child if a parent/carer is not immediately available, remaining with the child until a parent/carer or other appropriate adult arrives, in accordance with school procedures and local authority guidance.

Following any incident, the school will keep a detailed record of actions taken, attempts made to contact emergency contacts and advice received from healthcare professionals. The incident will be reviewed to identify any improvements to procedures or record keeping.

Good Practice

The school should aim to maintain:

- A minimum of two emergency contacts for each child.
- Clearly labelled emergency contact details within healthcare plans.
- Regular reminders to parents/carers to update contact information.
- Procedures for checking contact details at the start of each academic year.
- Emergency contact information that accompanies staff on educational visits and residential visits.

Appendices

- Related information and policies.
- Benedict's Law moves forward as Government commits to mandatory school allergy guidance | Anaphylaxis UK.
- Stronger protections for children with allergies in school - GOV.UK.
- Medical Conditions Policy.
- Medicines in School Policy.

Appendix 1: Allergy Register Template

Appendix 2: Individual Healthcare Plan Template

