



CHADSMEAD PRIMARY ACADEMY

Developing roots
to grow and wings to fly

Our New Allergy Safety Policy

— What Parents and Carers Need to Know

From September 2026 we have a new Allergy Safety Policy, written in line with the Department for Education's statutory guidance. It sets out how we keep pupils with allergies safe, included and able to join in fully with school life.

The full policy is available from the school office and on our school website.





Allergy or intolerance — what's the difference?

These words are often used interchangeably, but they are not the same thing, and our policy treats them differently.



ALLERGY	INTOLERANCE
 Involves the immune system	 Does not involve the immune system
 Can be sudden and severe — including anaphylaxis, a medical emergency	 Uncomfortable, but not life-threatening
 Even a tiny trace can trigger a reaction	 Usually needs a larger amount to cause symptoms
 Needs an Allergy Action Plan from a doctor if there is anaphylaxis risk	 Managed through diet — no adrenaline device required

Food intolerance and coeliac disease do not cause anaphylaxis. They are supported through our wider medical conditions and food provision arrangements, rather than an Allergy Action Plan.





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Allergy Action Plans

If your child has been diagnosed with an allergy that carries a risk of anaphylaxis, they should have a clinical action plan completed and signed by their doctor, allergy specialist or other healthcare professional.



Please ask your child's doctor for this – the school cannot write it for you



An Allergy Action Plan must be completed and signed by a healthcare professional – it is a clinical document, not a school form. We ask your prescriber for the BSACI Paediatric Allergy Action Plan where possible, as it's a widely recognised format – but we will accept any current, signed plan. Blank forms for your doctor to complete are available at www.sparepensinschools.uk

Please bring the signed plan to school as soon as you have it, and let us know straight away if your child's diagnosis, medication or emergency arrangements ever change.



If your child is prescribed an adrenaline auto-injector (AAI)

Please provide two in-date, prescribed devices to be kept in school and keep us updated on expiry dates.

We also hold spare adrenaline devices for emergency use, which can only be used for a child who has a known allergy diagnosis. This is a safety net, not a substitute. Your child should always have their own labelled AAI device in school.

Staff are trained annually to recognise and respond to a reaction.



Our approach: allergy-aware, not “nut-free”

Chadsmead is an allergy-aware school rather than a “nut-free” one. A blanket ban on a named food can create a false sense of security, since “may contain” labelling and hidden ingredients mean risk can't be removed just by banning one item. Our main safeguards are staff training, clear routines, and a swift emergency response — alongside sensible, individual precautions where a child's own plan requires it.



What we ask of you

- ✓ Tell us about any known allergy, intolerance or medical condition when your child joins, and update us whenever anything changes.
- ✓ Request a signed Allergy Action Plan from your child's doctor if they are at risk of anaphylaxis, and pass a copy to the school office.
- ✓ Provide in-date prescribed medication, including replacement adrenaline devices before they expire.
- ✓ Let us know promptly about any reaction, near miss or change in treatment.



Questions? Please contact the school office.



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