

Allergy Policy	
Date ratified: June 2026	
Period: June 2026 to June 2027	
Headteacher:	Lynsay Falkingham
Chair of Governors Signature:	Briony Allder
Review Annually Date: June 2027	

Allergy Procedures and Practice at Lanterns Nursery School

1. Our Commitment

At Lanterns Nursery School, we actively provide a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for all children, including those with allergies. We identify, manage, and respond to allergies in strict accordance with statutory guidance and early years best practice.

2. Our Legal and Statutory Framework

We baseline our practice on the following statutory legislation and guidance:

- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework – Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements.
- Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (DfE) – Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools.
- Children and Families Act 2014 – Our legal duty to support pupils with medical conditions.
- The Food Information Regulations 2014 and The Food Information (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2019 (Natasha's Law) – Regarding allergen labelling and food safety.
- Guidance from Allergy UK, Anaphylaxis UK, and the Natasha Allergy Research Foundation.

3. Our Aims in Everyday Practice

- We identify children with allergies before they commence their transition or their first day at our school.
- We minimise exposure to known allergens through robust, daily risk management.

- We ensure all staff are trained to recognise and confidently respond to allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
- We promote inclusive practices, safer eating environments, and actively reduce social stigma.
- We maintain clear, transparent, and regular communication with parents/carers.

4. How We Identify and Document Allergies

- We require parents/carers to disclose any known allergies, dietary requirements, or intolerances during the registration and enrolment process.
- We develop an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) and a formal Allergy Action Plan in direct collaboration with parents and relevant healthcare professionals.
- We ensure these plans and any required medications are fully finalised, signed, and active in our setting before the child's first day of attendance.
- Our plans detail:
 - Specific allergen details and triggers.
 - Symptoms of mild, moderate, and severe (anaphylaxis) reactions.
 - Clear, step-by-step emergency procedures.
 - Medication requirements, exact dosages, and designated storage locations.

5. Daily Risk Reduction and Safer Eating Measures

- **Visual Awareness:** We display allergy information, in food preparation and eating areas. We do this in accordance with UK GDPR, obtaining explicit written parental consent before displaying any photos.
- **Mealtime Protocols:** We use colour-coded placemats for children with allergies so they are instantly identifiable to catering and lunchtime staff.
- **Preventing Cross-Contamination:** We utilise separate, clearly marked utensils, cutting boards, and preparation areas for allergen-free meals.
- **Strict Food Control:** We enforce no food sharing across the nursery. Where food is permitted to be brought into the school, we provide families and staff with clear guidance on allowed ingredients and allergen control before it enters the setting.
- **Activity Planning:** We conduct allergy risk assessments for all nursery activities, including messy play, cooking activities, and educational outings.
- **Safer Materials:** We use inclusive substitutes for play materials (e.g., providing cornflour or rice flour instead of wheat flour for children with coeliac disease or wheat allergies).

6. Staff Training and Daily Roles

- **Our Allergy Lead:** We designate the Headteacher and School Business Manager as the school Allergy Leads. They are responsible for maintaining our allergy register and ensuring school-wide compliance.
- **Core Training:** We ensure all face-to-face practitioners' complete annual allergy and anaphylaxis training. This training empowers staff to recognise allergic reactions, administer specific brands of adrenaline auto-injectors and execute emergency protocols.
- **First Aid Coverage:** We ensure at least one staff member holding a full, current Paediatric First Aid (PFA) certificate is present on the premises and on outings at all times when children are present.
- **Supply and Temporary Staff:** Class Seniors brief supply staff, students, and temporary staff on children's specific allergies and IHPs upon their arrival at school.

7. Our Emergency Procedures

- We store emergency medication kits (containing the child's prescribed AAI, antihistamines, and their Allergy Action Plan) so that they are:
 - Clearly labelled with the child's name and photo.
 - Easily accessible to staff at all times.
 - Kept safely out of reach of children.
 - Checked on a termly basis by class seniors for expiry dates.
- **School Spare Emergency AAI:** *[Select the option that matches your school's setup]*
 - *Option A:* We choose to hold a school-held, back-up emergency Adrenaline Auto-Injector (AAI) kit without a prescription, maintained in accordance with Department of Health and Social Care guidance, for use if a child's prescribed device fails, is empty, or is unavailable.

What We Do in the Event of an Allergic Reaction:

1. We follow the child's specific Allergy Action Plan immediately.
2. We administer prescribed medication (e.g. AAI) without delay if we suspect anaphylaxis, and we carefully note the time of administration.
3. We call emergency services (999) immediately if an AAI is administered or if the child shows signs of breathing difficulties or shock. We state "Anaphylaxis" clearly to the operator.
4. We inform parents/carers immediately.
5. We ensure a staff member accompanies the child to the hospital if parents have not yet arrived.

8. Communication and Inclusion

- We share updated allergy information with all relevant staff members immediately whenever an IHP is modified.

- We educate our children about allergies and the importance of not sharing food in an age-appropriate, positive manner through stories and circle time.
- We work collaboratively with parents to ensure children feel safe, fully included, and un-stigmatized during celebrations, birthdays, and school events.

9. Monitoring and Review

- We review allergy information, dietary needs, and IHPs termly with parents/carers, or immediately if a child's medical needs change.
- Our Allergy Leads maintain and update staff training records annually.
- Our Governing Body reviews this policy annually and updates it in line with new statutory guidance, medical advancements, or following any allergy-related incidents.

10. Resources and Support We Utilize

- **Allergy UK** – Early Years Guidance and Resources (www.allergyuk.org)
- **Anaphylaxis UK** – AllergyWise® Training Portal (www.anaphylaxis.org.uk)
- **Natasha Allergy Research Foundation** – Allergy School and Natasha's Law Guidance (www.narf.org.uk)
- **Department for Education (DfE)** – "Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions" statutory guidance (www.gov.uk)