



ALLERGY POLICY

Approved by the Genesis Education Trust Board: **Autumn 2023**

To be reviewed: **Every 3 years**

Next review: **Autumn 2026**

** Executive Head/ Head Teacher/Head of School/Associate Head (henceforth referred collectively as Head Teacher, unless specifically stated)*

Parents and Carers Responsibilities

- Care plans are provided for children with food allergies. It is the parent and carers responsibility to complete the care plan with the help from a health professional and provide this to the school.
- Being aware of our school's allergy policy
- Providing the school with up-to-date details of their child's medical needs, dietary requirements, and any history of allergies, reactions and anaphylaxis
- It is the responsibility of the child's parents to ensure that the anaphylaxis kit is up to date and clearly labelled
- If required, providing their child with 2 in-date adrenaline auto-injectors and any other medication, including inhalers, antihistamine etc. and making sure these are replaced in a timely manner
- Following the school's guidance on food brought in to be shared
- Updating the school on any changes to their child's condition

Staff Responsibilities

- All staff complete allergy training. Training is provided for all staff on a yearly basis and on an ad-hoc basis for any new members of staff.
- Staff are aware of the pupils in their care (regular or cover classes) who have known allergies as an allergic reaction could occur at any time and not just at mealtimes. Any food-related activities are supervised with due caution.
- Staff leading school trips will ensure they carry all relevant emergency supplies.
- Medications are stored in a suitable container and clearly labeled with the pupil's name.
- Care Plans are kept with the pupil's medication.
- A register of pupils who have been prescribed an adrenaline auto-injector (AAI) and a record of use of any AAI(s) and emergency treatment given is kept by the school office.

Pupil Responsibilities

Pupils are encouraged to have a good awareness of their symptoms and to let an adult know as soon as they suspect they are having an allergic reaction.

Emergency Treatment and Management of Anaphylaxis

Symptoms usually come on quickly, within minutes of exposure to the allergen. Mild to moderate allergic reaction symptoms may include a red raised rash (known as hives or urticaria) anywhere on the body, a tingling or itchy feeling in the mouth, swelling of lips, face or eyes and stomach pain or vomiting.

More serious symptoms are often referred to as the ABC symptoms and can include AIRWAY - swelling in the throat, tongue or upper airways (tightening of the throat, hoarse voice, difficulty swallowing), BREATHING - sudden onset wheezing, breathing difficulty,

noisy breathing and CIRCULATION - dizziness, feeling faint, sudden sleepiness, tiredness, confusion, pale clammy skin, loss of consciousness.

If anaphylaxis is suspected, adrenaline must be administered without delay by a trained first aider

Allergy awareness and nut bans

The School supports the approach advocated by Anaphylaxis UK towards nut bans/nut free schools. They would not necessarily support a blanket ban on any particular allergen in any establishment, including in schools. This is because nuts are only one of many allergens that could affect pupils, and no school could guarantee a truly allergen free environment for a child living with food allergy. They advocate instead for schools to adopt a culture of allergy awareness and education.