Allergy Safety Policy

Reviewed by	**Nathan Slater, Headteacher**
Checked by	**Daniel Pallett, Executive Headteacher**
Date reviewed:	**September 2026**
Next Review date:	**September 2027, or sooner if legislation or guidance changes**

1. Policy Statement

Jasmine Hall School is committed to ensuring the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all pupils with allergies. This policy outlines the procedures and responsibilities required to prevent, recognise and respond effectively to allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis.

This policy is aligned with the Department for Education's *Allergy Safety in Schools* statutory guidance (2026), commonly referred to as Benedict's Law. It adopts a whole-school approach that includes staff training, risk reduction, emergency preparedness and clear procedures.

2. Aims

- To provide a safe and inclusive environment for pupils with allergies.
- To minimise the risk of exposure to known allergens.
- To ensure staff can recognise and respond appropriately to allergic reactions.
- To align school practice with the Department for Education's *Allergy Safety in Schools* guidance (2026).

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All pupils.
- All staff, including teaching, support, administrative, site and transport staff.
- Visitors, volunteers and external providers.

4. Key Principles

- Allergies are treated as serious medical conditions.
- Prevention is prioritised, but emergency readiness is essential.
- All staff share responsibility for pupil safety.
- Pupils with allergies will be supported to participate fully in school life.
- Pupils will be supported to develop independence and appropriate awareness of their allergies.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Headteacher

- Oversees the implementation of this policy.
- Ensures appropriate training and resources are in place.
- Ensures that allergy safety arrangements are monitored and reviewed.

Allergy Leads – David Torrance, Assistant Head and DDSL; Sarah Leech, DDSL and Family Support Worker

- Maintains the school's allergy register.
- Coordinates Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs).
- Oversees staff training and awareness.
- Monitors the implementation and effectiveness of allergy safety arrangements.
- Contributes to the annual review of this policy and any review following a serious incident or near miss.

All Staff

- Are aware of pupils with allergies and know how to access relevant information.
- Follow the school's risk-reduction procedures.
- Can recognise the symptoms of an allergic reaction and anaphylaxis.
- Know how to locate and administer emergency medication.
- Know how to respond to and report an allergy-related incident or near miss.

6. Identification and Individual Healthcare Plans

The school will gather information about allergies from pupils, parents and carers, previous education settings and relevant healthcare professionals.

A pupil will have an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) where their allergy creates a risk of harm or has a functional impact and they require arrangements that are additional to or different from those ordinarily available.

IHPs will include:

- Known allergens.
- Signs and symptoms.
- Risk-reduction measures.
- Emergency procedures.
- Medication details and arrangements.
- Relevant contact information.

Where issued, an Allergy Action Plan or Asthma Action Plan will be attached to or referenced within the IHP.

Plans will be:

- Shared with relevant staff on a need-to-know basis.
- Readily available during an emergency.
- Reviewed at least annually and whenever a pupil's needs or medical advice changes.

7. Prevention and Risk Reduction

The school will:

- Maintain an up-to-date allergy register.
- Identify pupils with allergies and record whether they carry prescribed medication.
- Implement safe food-handling procedures.
- Provide clear information about allergens in food provided by the school.
- Manage the risks associated with food brought into school by pupils, families or staff.
- Use allergen-aware classroom practices.
- Consider possible allergens when planning cooking, science, art, animal-related and other practical activities.
- Consider airborne and contact allergens when appropriate.
- complete allergy-specific risk assessments for educational visits, off-site activities and other relevant activities.
- Maintain clear communication with pupils, parents and carers.
- Ensure the safe storage of food and materials.
- Make reasonable adjustments so that pupils with allergies can participate fully in school life.

The school will promote the wellbeing and inclusion of pupils with allergies. Allergy-related bullying, including deliberately exposing or threatening to expose someone to a known allergen, will be addressed through the school's behaviour and anti-bullying procedures.

8. Staff Training

All staff will receive allergy-awareness and emergency-response training at least annually.

Training will include:

- Awareness of different allergies and their potential impact.
- Recognising allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
- Responding to anaphylaxis and acute asthma.
- Locating and using prescribed and spare adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs).
- Calling the emergency services and informing parents or carers.
- Following an Allergy Action Plan or Asthma Action Plan.
- Reducing the risk of exposure to known allergens.
- Reporting allergy-related incidents and near misses.
- Understanding the school's Allergy Safety Policy.

Training will include permanent, temporary, supply, agency and catering staff, regular volunteers and others responsible for pupils while they are on site. Allergy awareness will form part of the induction arrangements for new staff, and appropriate arrangements will be made for supply and cover staff.

9. Emergency Medication

Pupils who have been prescribed adrenaline must have rapid access to their own devices at all times, including during lessons, breaktimes, lunchtimes, educational visits and off-site activities.

The school will hold appropriate, in-date spare AAIs in the correct dosage for its pupils. Spare AAIs will:

- Be clearly labelled and stored in pairs.
- Be readily accessible and not locked away.
- Be capable of reaching any pupil within five minutes.
- Be stored at room temperature in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Be checked regularly to ensure they remain in date.
- Be replaced and safely disposed of when used or expired.

The location of emergency medication and the arrangements for its use will be communicated clearly to staff.

10. Responding to an Allergic Reaction

In the event of a suspected allergic reaction:

1. Stay with the pupil and follow their Allergy Action Plan, where available.
2. If anaphylaxis is suspected, administer adrenaline immediately, even if there is uncertainty.
3. Lay the pupil flat with their legs raised. If they are struggling to breathe, they may be allowed to sit up gently, but they must not stand or walk.

4. Call 999 immediately, state "anaphylaxis" and request an ambulance. Do not delay administering adrenaline while waiting to contact the emergency services.
5. Use the pupil's prescribed AAI first, where it is immediately available. A spare AAI may be used if the pupil's device is unavailable, has misfired or the pupil has not previously been prescribed one.
6. Administer a second AAI after five minutes if symptoms have not improved.
7. Inform the pupil's parents or carers.
8. Continue to supervise and reassure the pupil until emergency help arrives.

All allergic reactions, serious incidents and near misses will be:

- Recorded and reported to the Allergy Lead.
- Reviewed to identify lessons and inform future risk reduction.
- Considered during reviews of the pupil's IHP and the school's allergy-safety arrangements.

Information subsequently provided by pupils, parents, carers or healthcare professionals will also be considered.

11. Educational Visits and Off-Site Activities

- Risk assessments must include allergy considerations and any necessary reasonable adjustments.
- Pupils with allergies must be supported to participate in educational visits and off-site activities wherever reasonably possible.
- Prescribed emergency medication and relevant care or action plans must accompany the pupil.
- Staff must know where the medication is kept and be trained and confident in responding to an emergency.
- Where appropriate, the school will consider taking spare AAIs without leaving the school site without suitable emergency provision.

12. Communication with Parents and Carers

The school will:

- Work in partnership with parents and carers.
- Ensure accurate and relevant information is shared.
- Provide reassurance about the safety measures in place.
- Inform parents and carers about allergic reactions, incidents and near misses involving their child.
- Share relevant allergy information with staff on a need-to-know basis and in accordance with data-protection requirements.

Parents and carers must:

- Inform the school about any known or suspected allergies.
- Provide up-to-date medical information and relevant action plans.
- Supply prescribed medication where required.
- Inform the school promptly of any changes to their child's allergy, treatment or medication.

13. Monitoring and Review

The school will:

- Review this policy at least annually and following any serious allergy incident or near miss.
- Monitor allergy-related incidents and near misses.
- Use lessons learned to improve procedures and reduce future risks.
- Update practice in line with current national guidance.
- Make this policy available to staff, pupils, parents and carers and publish it on the school website.

14. Linked Policies and Legal Frameworks

- Safeguarding Policy.
- Administration and Storage of Medication Policy.
- Health and Safety Policy.
- Risk Assessment Policy.
- Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy.
- Data Protection Policy.
- Department for Education, *Allergy Safety in Schools* statutory guidance (2026).
- Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, section 34, where applicable to the school's legal category.
- Children and Families Act 2014.
- Equality Act 2010.
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.
- Department for Education, *Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions* statutory guidance.