Siegeris Dance

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Siegeris Dance Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Policy

(Benedict's Law & UK Regulations Compliance)

School / Organisation Name: Siegeris Dance

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) & Allergy Lead: Mrs Jennifer Siegeris (info@siegerisdance.com | 020 3015 8467)

1. Statement of Purpose & Legal Framework

Siegeris Dance is committed to providing a safe, inclusive environment for all pupils, staff, and visitors. We recognise the severity of severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) and strictly adhere to statutory guidance, including:

- **Benedict's Law** (and associated anaphylaxis safety standards for educational and child-focused settings)
- **The Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2017** (regarding Adrenaline Auto-Injectors in schools)
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)**
- **UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018**

This policy outlines our procedures during our hired studio hours to prevent exposure to known allergens, recognise signs of allergic reactions promptly, and respond immediately to medical emergencies.

2. Risk Mitigation & "Nut-Aware" Venue Policy

To minimise the risk of accidental allergen exposure on the hired premises:

- **Strict No-Nut Zone:** Siegeris Dance operates a strict **Nut-Free / Nut-Aware Policy**. Staff, pupils, parents, and visitors are strictly prohibited from bringing nuts, products containing nuts, or high-risk allergen snacks into the hired facilities.
- **Eating & Drinking Protocols:** Pupils are only permitted to consume snacks and drinks in designated break areas. Eating inside studio rooms is forbidden (except for personal water bottles).

- **Waste & Cleanliness:** All food packaging and waste must be disposed of immediately in sealed bins, and hands/surfaces must be washed or sanitized following snack breaks.

3. Individual Allergy Action Plans & Data Collection

1. **Medical Disclosure:** Upon enrolment, parents/guardians must declare any known food allergies, dietary restrictions, or prescribed medications (including Adrenaline Auto-Injectors / AAIs) for their child.
2. **Allergy Register:** Siegeris Dance maintains an up-to-date **Medical & Allergy Register** for every class. This is accessible to all teaching staff, chaperones, and the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) on-site.
3. **BSACI Action Plans:** Pupils prescribed AAIs (e.g., Epipen, Jext, Emerade) must have an official **BSACI (British Society for Allergy & Clinical Immunology) Individual Allergy Action Plan** provided by their medical practitioner and signed by a parent/guardian.

4. Medication Storage & Accessibility (Benedict's Law Compliance)

In accordance with Benedict's Law guidelines on rapid emergency response:

- **Accessibility:** AAIs and allergy medication must **never** be kept in locked boxes or room closets. They must be stored in a clearly marked, easily accessible container within the immediate teaching/dance area.
- **Dual Device Requirement:** Parents of pupils prescribed AAIs must ensure **two in-date auto-injectors** are brought to every class, clearly labelled with the pupil's full name and prescription details.
- **Host School Spare AAIs:** Where permitted under the venue hire agreement, Siegeris Dance staff are briefed on the location of the host school's emergency spare AAIs (for use if a pupil's device fails or in a first-time anaphylactic emergency).

5. Staff Training & Emergency Anaphylaxis Protocol

All Siegeris Dance staff, teachers, and head chaperones receive guidance on recognizing the signs of mild-to-moderate allergic reactions and severe anaphylaxis.

Emergency Response Procedure:

1. **Immediate Assessment:** If a pupil shows signs of severe anaphylaxis (difficulty breathing, swelling of tongue/throat, dizziness, pale/floppy state, collapse):

    - **Administer the pupil's AAI immediately** into the outer mid-thigh (can be given through clothing).
    - **Note the exact time** of administration.
2. **Call Emergency Services (999):**
    - Immediately call **999** and state **"ANAPHYLAXIS"**.
    - State the exact location and entrance code/gate of the hired school hall.
3. **Notify Venue & Parents:**
    - Alert the host school's site manager / duty first aider on site.
    - Contact the pupil's parent/guardian immediately.
4. **Second AAI Administration:** If there is no improvement or symptoms worsen after **5 minutes**, administer the second AAI device.
5. **Positioning:** Keep the child lying flat with legs raised (unless breathing is severely compromised, in which case allow them to sit up comfortably; **do not stand them up abruptly**).

6. Incident Reporting & Post-Emergency Review

Following any allergic incident or near-miss on the hired premises:

- **Formal Incident Record:** A detailed accident/incident report will be logged within 24 hours detailing symptoms, triggers, times, and actions taken.
- **Host School Notification:** Siegeris Dance will formally notify the host school's management team in writing of any emergency incident occurring during the hire period.
- **Policy Review:** The DSL will review the incident alongside the pupil's family and medical team to update the child's individual plan and prevent future occurrences.

7. Contact Information

For any allergy management enquiries or emergency coordination, please contact:

- **Designated Allergy & Safeguarding Lead:** Mrs Jennifer Siegeris
- **Email:** info@siegerisdance.com
- **Phone:** 07730536499