Allergy Safety Policy

Introduction

Pound Park Nursery School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all pupils, staff and visitors with allergies. We recognise that allergies can range from mild reactions to life-threatening anaphylaxis and that effective allergy management requires a whole-school approach. We are committed to reducing the risk of exposure to known allergens, ensuring staff are appropriately trained, promoting awareness across the school community and responding effectively in an emergency. This policy reflects the Department for Education Allergy Safety in Schools guidance and the requirements introduced through Benedict's Law. It should be read alongside the school's Medical Conditions Policy, First Aid procedures and Health and Safety arrangements.

Purpose

This policy sets out the school's approach to allergy safety, including the identification and support of individuals with allergies, staff awareness and training, minimising exposure to allergens, emergency response arrangements and the review of incidents and near misses.

Scope

This policy applies to pupils, staff and visitors and covers food allergies, airborne allergens, contact allergens, insect sting allergies and the risk of anaphylaxis.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Board and Headteacher are responsible for ensuring appropriate arrangements are in place to support allergy safety. Emma Richards, Deputy Headteacher, is the designated Allergy Lead and is responsible for overseeing implementation of this policy, maintaining oversight of allergy records, promoting awareness, monitoring training, reviewing incidents and leading the annual review of this policy. All staff are responsible for following this policy and taking reasonable steps to reduce allergy risks. Parents and carers are responsible for providing accurate and up-to-date information regarding their child's allergy and prescribed medication.

Identification and Information Sharing

The school will maintain an allergy register recording known allergies, relevant medication, Allergy Action Plans and Individual Healthcare Plans where appropriate. Information will be obtained from parents/carers and, where appropriate, healthcare professionals and previous settings. Relevant information will be shared with staff and others on a need-to-know basis in accordance with UK GDPR and safeguarding responsibilities.

The school will also take reasonable steps to obtain and share relevant allergy information where it is known that a member of staff, volunteer or visitor has a significant allergy that may require support or emergency action whilst on site.

Individual Healthcare Plans

An Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) will be developed where a child has a known allergy which has a functional impact on the child, places them at risk of harm and requires arrangements additional to or different from those generally available. Where provided by a healthcare professional, Allergy Action Plans will be attached to or referenced within the IHP and reviewed periodically.

Risk Assessment
The school will undertake risk assessments where appropriate to ensure pupils with allergies can participate safely in all aspects of school life. This may include classroom activities, craft activities, food-related learning, cooking activities, educational visits, extended provision, special events and activities involving animals or other potential allergens.

Food Allergy Management
The school adopts a whole-school approach to reducing exposure to known allergens. The school will work with its catering provider to ensure suitable arrangements are in place for pupils requiring medically prescribed diets and that relevant allergen information is available. Information relating to pupils with allergies will be communicated appropriately to staff to support safe practice.

Packed Lunches and Food Brought into School
Packed lunches should not contain nuts or products containing nuts. The school will communicate any additional restrictions necessary to manage identified risks. Pupils will be discouraged from sharing food and appropriate hygiene measures, including handwashing, will be promoted.

Educational Visits and Extended Provision
Pupils with allergies will not be excluded from educational visits, enrichment activities or extended provision because of their allergy. Appropriate planning, risk assessment and reasonable adjustments will be undertaken where required. Relevant staff and volunteers will have access to essential allergy information and emergency procedures.

Wellbeing and Inclusion
The school recognises that allergies can affect a pupil's confidence, wellbeing and participation in school life. We will promote inclusion, support participation in activities and take reasonable steps to reduce anxiety associated with allergy risks. Bullying, teasing or exclusion linked to allergies or medical conditions will be addressed through the school's Behaviour Policy.

Through age-appropriate teaching and daily routines, the school will promote an understanding of safe practices relating to allergies, including handwashing, not sharing food and seeking adult help if a friend becomes unwell.

Staff Training and Awareness
All staff who work with pupils will receive training at least annually. This includes teaching staff, support staff, lunchtime staff, catering staff and Extended Day staff.

Training will include allergy awareness, identification of allergy symptoms, recognition of anaphylaxis, use of adrenaline auto-injectors, emergency procedures, use of Allergy Action Plans and Individual Healthcare Plans, reducing exposure to allergens and reporting incidents and near misses. New staff will receive appropriate information and induction relating to allergy safety.

Any supply staff, other temporary staff and regular volunteers will be provided with relevant allergy information and emergency procedures appropriate to their role before working with pupils.

Adrenaline Auto-Injectors
The school will ensure that pupils prescribed AAIs have prompt access to them throughout the school day, including during outdoor activities, lunch times and educational visits. Arrangements aim to ensure adrenaline can be administered within five minutes where anaphylaxis is suspected. The school will maintain spare AAIs in accordance with national guidance. Spare AAIs will be

appropriately stored, readily accessible, regularly checked and replaced before expiry. Staff will receive training on their use.

The school will maintain records of pupils prescribed adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) and associated Allergy Action Plans and will monitor expiry dates of prescribed medication in partnership with parents/carers.

Emergency Procedures

The school maintains emergency procedures for responding to allergic reactions and anaphylaxis. Where anaphylaxis is suspected, staff will act immediately, administer adrenaline in accordance with guidance and the individual's Allergy Action Plan where available, contact emergency services without delay and inform parents/carers as soon as practicable.

Serious Incidents and Near Misses

The school will report and record allergic reactions, anaphylaxis incidents and significant near misses using the school's established recording systems. Following any serious incident or near miss, members of the Senior Leadership Team will review risk assessments, healthcare plans, staff training and relevant procedures to identify lessons learned, improve future practice and determine whether any amendments are required.

Monitoring, Publication and Review

This policy will be published on the school website and made available on request. It will be reviewed annually, or sooner following significant incidents, near misses or changes in statutory guidance.

Date this policy was last reviewed:	September 2026
Date next review due:	September 2027
Allergy Lead:	Emma Richards, Deputy Headteacher