Gawber Primary School

Allergy Safety Policy

September 2026

Review date September 2027

Person responsible for the Policy	Dawn Bradshaw / Jo Hebden
Date Agreed by Governors	12.10.26
Review Date	September 2027
Is this Policy to appear on the school website	Yes

Headteacher's Signature Date	D Bradshaw 12.10.26
Chair of Governor's Signature Date	E Casimir 14.10.26

Gawber Primary School Allergy Safety Policy

In line with the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 and the Statutory Guidance: Allergy Safety in Schools (July 2026)

1. Policy Statement

Gawber Primary School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all pupils, staff and visitors, including those living with allergies. We recognise that allergies can range from mild to life-threatening and that the risk of allergic reactions can have a significant impact on a child's physical health, emotional wellbeing and participation in school life.

This policy sets out how the school will promote allergy safety, minimise risks, respond to emergencies and support pupils with allergies to participate fully in all aspects of school life.

The Governing Body and Headteacher are committed to meeting the requirements of Section 34 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 and the statutory Allergy Safety in Schools guidance.

2. Named Allergy Lead

The school's designated Allergy Safety Lead is:

Name: Dawn Bradshaw
Role: Headteacher

The Allergy Safety Lead is responsible for:

- Leading implementation of this policy.
- Coordinating staff training.
- Maintaining oversight of pupils with allergies.
- Monitoring incidents and near misses.
- Reviewing Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs).
- Leading policy reviews and improvements.

The Allergy Safety Lead will undertake an annual allergy safety audit to review training compliance, medication availability, emergency procedures and incident trends.

Governor Allergy Lead- Fran Birkbeck

The Governing Body will ensure appropriate arrangements are in place to support pupils with allergies, monitor implementation of this policy, review incidents and near misses, and ensure adequate resources are available to meet statutory duties.

3. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Minimise the risk of exposure to allergens.
- Ensure all staff understand allergy awareness and emergency response procedures.
- Promote an inclusive and supportive culture for pupils with allergies.
- Support the physical and emotional wellbeing of pupils with allergies.
- Ensure rapid and effective responses to allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
- Meet statutory requirements and safeguard children from avoidable harm.

4. Creating a Culture of Allergy Awareness

The school will promote a culture in which allergies are understood, respected and managed safely.

We recognise that:

- Allergies may affect confidence, participation and emotional wellbeing.
- Some children experience anxiety about accidental exposure to allergens.
- Children with allergies should feel safe, included and supported.

The school will:

- Encourage open communication about allergies.
- Promote understanding amongst pupils and staff.
- Work proactively with families and healthcare professionals.
- Ensure children with allergies are included in activities wherever it is safe to do so.

Bullying and Discrimination

Any bullying, teasing, exclusion or intimidation relating to a pupil's allergy will be treated seriously and addressed in accordance with the school's Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies.

5. Allergy Awareness and Emergency Response Training

All staff present during times when pupils are on site will receive allergy awareness and emergency response training at least annually.

This includes:

- Teachers
- Teaching assistants
- Lunchtime supervisors
- Office staff
- Catering staff
- Breakfast and after-school club staff
- Agency staff

- Supply teachers
- Regular volunteers

Training will cover:

Staff will understand:

- What allergies are and how allergic reactions occur.
- The relationship between allergy, asthma, eczema and hay fever.
- The difference between allergy, coeliac disease and food intolerance.
- Common allergy triggers.
- Signs and symptoms of allergic reactions.
- Recognition of anaphylaxis.
- Emergency procedures.
- How to locate and administer adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs).
- Use of emergency asthma medication where applicable.
- How to access and follow an Individual Healthcare Plan, Allergy Action Plan or Asthma Action Plan.
- Their responsibilities in reducing exposure to allergens.
- Incident and near-miss reporting procedures.

New Staff and Supply Staff

All new staff will receive allergy safety information during induction.

Supply staff and temporary staff will be informed of relevant allergies and emergency procedures before working with pupils.

6. Identification of Individuals with Allergies

The school will maintain an up-to-date register of pupils with known allergies.

Information will be collected through:

- Admission documentation.
- Medical forms.
- Discussions with parents/carers.
- Healthcare professionals.
- Transition information from previous settings.

Records will include:

- Known allergens.
- Severity of allergy.
- Medication requirements.
- Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Allergy Action Plans.
- Asthma Action Plans where relevant.

Where appropriate, information will also be collected regarding staff members and regular visitors with significant allergies.

7. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

An Individual Healthcare Plan will be developed where a child's allergy:

- Has a functional impact in school;
- Places them at risk of harm; and
- Requires arrangements additional to those normally available to all pupils- such as a need for medication in school

The IHP will include:

- Allergens and triggers.
- Symptoms of reaction.
- Preventative measures.
- Medication requirements.
- Emergency procedures.
- Responsibilities of staff, parents and the pupil where appropriate.
- Arrangements for educational visits and extra-curricular activities.

Where a healthcare professional has provided an Allergy Action Plan or Asthma Action Plan, this will be attached to or referenced within the IHP.

Plans will be reviewed:

- At least annually;
- Following any allergic reaction;
- When medical advice changes.

Allergy information and healthcare plans will be transferred promptly when pupils move classes, attend residential visits or transfer between educational settings.

8. Minimising Risk

General Principles

The school does not operate as an allergen-free environment. However, reasonable steps will be taken to minimise risk and prevent avoidable exposure to allergens.

Staff planning any activity must consider allergy risks, including:

- Cooking activities
- Food tasting
- Science experiments
- Arts and crafts
- Animal visits

- Music activities
- Special events and celebrations

Appropriate adjustments and alternatives will be provided where necessary.

9. Food Allergy Management

School Meals

The school will:

- Ensure catering staff are aware of pupils requiring special diets.
- Maintain clear records of dietary needs.
- Display dietary requirements with pupil photographs within catering areas where appropriate.
- Use lanyards or an alternative identification system for pupils requiring special dietary provision.
- Make allergen information available.
- Minimise risks of cross-contamination.
- The school and its catering provider will work together to ensure compliance with food allergen legislation and the accurate communication of allergen information to pupils and families

Packed Lunches

Parents and carers will be encouraged to support allergy-safe practices.

Where necessary, the school may implement specific restrictions for certain food items following an individual risk assessment.

Celebrations and Special Events

Parents/carers of children with allergies may be asked to provide a small supply of clearly labelled safe treats.

For events such as discos, parties or celebrations, families may be asked to provide a safe snack that their child can enjoy confidently.

10. Prescribed Adrenaline Auto-Injectors

The school will ensure pupils prescribed adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) have rapid access to their medication at all times.

This includes:

- Classrooms
- Dining areas
- Playground areas
- Sports activities
- Educational visits
- Off-site activities

The school will:

- Maintain records of prescribed AAIs.
- Monitor expiry dates.
- Notify parents when replacement medication is required.
- Ensure medication accompanies pupils on visits where necessary.

Parents remain responsible for supplying prescribed medication and ensuring it is in date.

11. Spare Adrenaline Auto-Injectors

The school maintains spare adrenaline auto-injectors in line with statutory guidance.

Storage

Spare AAIs will:

- Be stored in clearly labelled emergency allergy kits.
- Be readily accessible and not locked away.
- Be stored in pairs.
- Be available within five minutes of any location where pupils may be present.

Management

The school will:

- Conduct regular checks of expiry dates.
- Replace devices after use or expiry.
- Dispose of used devices safely.
- Keep records of all use.
- The school will periodically rehearse allergy emergency procedures so that staff remain confident in recognising and responding to anaphylaxis.
- Parents of children prescribed adrenaline auto-injectors will be asked to provide written consent for the emergency use of the school's spare AAI in accordance with national guidance.

Spare AAIs may be used in accordance with national guidance and individual Allergy Action Plans.

Emergency Equipment Locations

- Main Office
- Additional locations as identified through risk assessment

12. School Trips and Educational Visits

Children with allergies will be supported to participate fully in educational visits and off-site activities.

Risk assessments will specifically consider:

- Access to medication.
- Availability of trained staff.
- Food arrangements.
- Environmental allergens.
- Emergency response procedures.

Where a child is at risk of anaphylaxis:

- Their prescribed medication must accompany them.
- Relevant staff must be trained to administer adrenaline.
- Emergency contact information must be available.

13. Emergency Procedures

If an allergic reaction occurs:

1. Follow the child's Individual Healthcare Plan and/or Allergy Action Plan.
2. Administer medication immediately where indicated.
3. Call 999 without delay if anaphylaxis is suspected.
4. Contact parents/carers.
5. Record the incident.

Staff should never delay administration of adrenaline if anaphylaxis is suspected.

14. Recording Serious Incidents and Near Misses

The school will record and review:

- Allergic reactions.
- Cases of anaphylaxis.
- Administration of medication.
- Allergy-related near misses.

Records will include:

- Circumstances of the incident.
- Actions taken.
- Outcomes.
- Lessons learned.

Following significant incidents or near misses, procedures and risk assessments will be reviewed to identify improvements.

Parents and carers can report incidents occurring outside school where exposure may have originated during the school day.

15. Information Sharing and Data Protection

Allergy information is special category personal data under UK GDPR.

The school will:

- Store information securely.
- Share information only where necessary to safeguard children.
- Respect individual privacy and dignity.
- Ensure relevant staff have the information needed to keep children safe.

Information will be shared on a need-to-know basis and in accordance with the school's Data Protection Policy.

16. Raising Awareness of Allergy Safety

This policy will be:

- Published on the school website.
- Available in hard copy upon request.
- Shared with staff during induction and annual training.
- Reviewed with governors as part of safeguarding and health and safety oversight.

Age-appropriate allergy awareness may be provided to pupils where appropriate and in consultation with parents.

Where children carry adrenaline devices, consideration may be given to helping close friends understand how to seek adult assistance in an emergency.

17. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed:

- Annually;
- Following any significant allergy-related incident;
- Following changes to legislation or statutory guidance.

Reviews will consider:

- Incident and near-miss data.
- Feedback from pupils, parents and staff.
- Advice from healthcare professionals.
- Updates to national guidance.

Approved by: The Gawber Governing Body

Headteacher: Dawn Bradshaw

Chair of Governors: Emma Casimir

Date Approved: October 2026

Review Date: October 2027

This policy should be read alongside the school's Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy, First Aid Policy, Educational Visits Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Behaviour Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy and Data Protection Policy.