



Friarage Community Primary School

(An Academy within Coast and Vale Learning Trust)

Academy Policy

Allergy Policy

Approver: Head teacher

Review cycle: Every 2 years

Date	Version	Short Description of changes	Approved by
01/03/2020	V1.00	New policy	Headteacher
11/05/2021	V1.01	Front cover added - No change to content	Headteacher
22/10/21	V1.02	Changes to name of trust	Headteacher

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STATEMENT

- The policy is concerned with a whole school approach to the health care and management of those members of the school community suffering from specific allergies.
- Friarage Community Primary School is aware that staff and children who attend may suffer from allergies to food, wasp/bee stings, animals or household products and believe that all allergies should be taken seriously and dealt with in a professional and appropriate way.
- Friarage Community Primary School does not guarantee a completely allergen free environment, rather to minimise the risk of exposure, encourage self-responsibility and plan for effective response to possible emergencies.

AIM

- The intention of this policy is to minimise the risk of any child or member of staff suffering an allergic reaction whilst at school.
- An allergic reaction to nuts is the most common high risk allergy and as such demands more rigorous controls throughout the policy.

The underlying principles of this policy include:

- The establishment of effective risk management practices to minimise the child, staff, parent and visitor exposure to known triggers of allergic reactions.
- Staff training and education to ensure effective emergency response to any allergic reaction situation.
- This policy applies to all members of the school community including: staff, parents, carers, volunteers, supply staff, students.

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Allergy	A condition in which the body has an exaggerated response to a substance (eg. Food or drug) also known as hypersensitivity.
Allergen	A normally harmless substance that triggers an allergic reaction in the immune system of a susceptible person.
Anaphylaxis	Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a sudden, severe and potentially life threatening allergic reaction to food, stings, bites, medicines or household products
Epipen	Brand name for syringe style device containing the drug Adrenalin, which is ready for immediate inter-muscular administration
Risk Assessment/Health Care Plan/Allergy Action Plan	Detailed documents outlining an individual child's condition, treatment and actions.

Parents' Role

- Parents are responsible for completing a risk assessment form, providing medical information about their child's allergy in writing. The information should include:
 - The allergen
 - The nature of the allergic reaction (from rash, breathing problems to anaphylactic shock.)
 - What do in case of allergic reaction, including any medication to be used and how it is to be used.
 - Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from getting into contact with the allergen
 - If a child has an allergy requiring an Epipen, or the risk assessment deems it necessary, a Health Care Plan must be completed and signed by the parents. A child under the care of a specialist paediatrician will also have an 'Allergy Action Plan' with more detailed information. A copy of this plan should be given to the school.
 - It is the responsibility of the parent to provide the school with up to date medication/equipment clearly labelled in the original container.

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- In the case of life saving medication like Epipens the child will not be allowed to attend school without it.
- Parents should ensure that, if sending in a packed lunch, that the contents are safe for the child to consume.
- Parents should liaise with staff if they would like the child to have a school dinner.
- Parents should liaise with staff regarding any activities where there need to be any adjustments – eg. Cooking lessons, food tasting, handling certain materials such as play-doh or boxes.
- Parents must report any change in a child’s medical condition during the year to school.

Other Parents

- Lunches provided by parents should be peanut and tree nut free.
- Parents should not send any snacks into school.
- Parents should ensure that there are no traces of nuts on their child’s face, hands, teeth or clothes when they come to school. If there are signs of nuts on a child. Eg. peanut butter around mouth the child will be sent home until the afternoon session.

Staff Role

- Staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with the policy.
- Staff will be trained in administering life-saving medication such as an Epipen. All staff will be responsible for acting swiftly in an emergency and administering an Epipen if necessary.
- Staff must not eat any nuts or nut products in school.
- Staff must ensure that if they eat nuts for breakfast, they must leave no traces on their face, hands, teeth and clothes.
- If a child’s admission form states that they have an allergy, then any actions identified on the parent’s risk assessment form must be put in place. If a child has an allergy requiring an Epipen, then a Health Care Plan must be completed and signed by staff and parents.
- Every year, a team meeting will be set up regarding children with severe allergies, where all staff concerned attend to update knowledge and awareness of the child’s needs.

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- All staff who come into contact with the child will be made aware of what treatment/medication is required and where any medication is stored.
- All staff will promote hand washing before and after eating.
- Snack time is monitored by staff and will be free from peanuts, tree nuts and other allergens depending on the children attending.
- All staff will know the procedures at snack, lunchtime and Breakfast Club to ensure the safety of children with allergies.
- Staff to ensure that children do not share food and drink at lunchtime, snack time or in Breakfast Club.
- Children with allergies having a school dinner will eat from a purple tray and wear a purple band. There will be designated areas for packed lunches and school dinners. Nut allergy children will always eat with the school dinners, regardless of what they are eating. Staff who work/eat in the dining room are to monitor this.

Teachers' Role

- Teachers to ensure that children do not have nuts or nut products in their packed lunches. If nuts are found they will be removed and given back to the child at the end of the day with a polite 'No nuts thank you' reminder.
- Teachers to ensure that children with allergies wear their purple bands for lunchtime.
- Teachers to ensure that the purple file is on display in their classroom and contains up to date medical information. There will also be a purple file in the staff room and in the staff room.
- Where children with known allergies are participating in school trips, the risk assessments must include this information.
- All classes will have regular 'Allergy Awareness' lessons over the year.
- Teachers should liaise with parents regarding any activities where there need to be any adjustments – eg. Cooking lessons, food tasting, handling certain materials such as play-doh or boxes.

ALLERGY MANAGEMENT/PROCEDURES

Epipens

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- During class time – Epipens will be in a named bag and kept in a visible, easy to access area which is unlocked and accessible by adults at all times, but out of the reach of children.
- During playtime and lunchtime – the Epipen bag will be left at the office. The bag will be collected at the end of playtime and lunchtime and taken back to class.
- During PE/Assembly/other hall activities – the Epipen bag will go to the hall with the child and be put on in a safe place. After the session, the bag will then go with the child back to class.
- At Breakfast Club, children with Epipen bags will hand them in to an adult in the hall and collect them at the end.
- We have a ‘spare’ Epipen in school, kept in the office, which can be used in an emergency for all children with a prescribed Epipen, and for other children with allergies, but only if there is a risk of anaphylaxis and have approval from their GP.

Emergency Action

In the event of a child suffering an allergic reaction:

- If the child has mild/moderate symptoms, give antihistamine, if that is part of their plan, and take the child to the office.
- Keep calm, make the child comfortable and give the child space.
- Watch the child for signs of anaphylaxis, phone parent or carer.
- If the child shows signs of anaphylaxis, administer the Epipen immediately. If in doubt, give it anyway. Direct someone to call 999, stating ‘anaphylaxis’.

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