



To be read in conjunction with DESC Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Policy for Schools in the Isle of Man

Rationale

St Mary's RC Primary School is committed to a whole school approach to the health care and management of those members of our school community with allergies. The school recognises that these members of our school's community (pupils and staff) may suffer from potentially life threatening allergies to certain foods, stings or bites. The intent of this policy is to minimise the risk of any child or staff member suffering an allergic reaction or allergy induced anaphylaxis whilst at school and to ensure staff are prepared to manage such emergency situations should they arise.

Aims

The school is committed to pro active risk allergy management through:
The encouragement of self responsibility and learned avoidance strategies amongst children suffering from allergies.
Provision of regular staff awareness training on anaphylaxis.
The implementation of a written care plan when needed.
The establishment of specific risk exposure minimisation practices and strategies where required.
Close liaison with parents of children with allergies

Awareness

The common causes of allergies relevant to this policy are nuts, (in particular peanuts), dairy products, fish, eggs, fruit, wasps, bees, and ants. The allergy to nuts is the most common high risk allergy, and as such demands more rigorous controls than the controls for allergies to dairy products, fish, eggs, fruit and wasps, bees and ants.

Definitions

Allergy - A condition in which the body has an exaggerated response to a substance (e.g. 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, or medicines.

EpiPen - the brand name for syringe style device containing the drug adrenaline, which is ready for immediate intramuscular administration.

Key Strategies:

The establishment of clear procedures and responsibilities to be followed by staff in meeting the needs of children with additional medical needs.

The involvement of parents, staff and the child in establishing an individual medical care plan.

Ensuring effective communication of individual child medical needs to all relevant teachers and other staff.

Ensuring First Aid Staff training includes anaphylaxis management, including awareness of triggers and first aid procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency.

Parents will be required not to add nuts or nut products to packed lunches in line with the school's Policy.

Children are encouraged not to share lunch food with other children, to reduce the risk to children with food allergies.

Parents are required to inform and supply school with updated Management Plan if any change occurs, during their child's education

Responsibilities

Parents are responsible for:

Providing ongoing and accurate and current medical information in writing to the School.

Providing the school with a completed Care Plan and any prescribed medication.

Advising the school, should a child develop a condition during the year, or have a change in condition, and clarifying details accordingly in the Care Plan.

The provision of written advice from the medical authority monitoring their child, which explains the child's allergy, defines the allergy triggers and reaction, and any required medication including EpiPens, and /or Piriton.

Monitoring of expiry dates and replacing medication and for providing appropriate foods to be consumed by the child. Expiry dates are put in the school diary to remind staff.

Collecting unused medication at the end of each academic year..

Senior Leadership Team are responsible for:

Ensuring there is an effective system to make certain medical information is regularly updated.

Ensuring that a Care Plan is provided by the child's parents.

Ensuring that where children with known allergies are participating in residential and/or external visits, the risk assessment for those visits includes the Care Plan.

Ensuring that staff are trained in the use of EpiPens and management of anaphylaxis.

Ensuring that completed Allergy forms are available to staff/ supply staff in the staff room and in the appropriate classrooms.

Ensuring that Allergy Action Plans are passed to the school lead catering staff

Staff are responsible for:

Ensuring they make themselves aware of any children with allergies in the school.

Completing the Always/Never forms and displaying them in their classrooms.

Ensuring the copy Care Plan is displayed in their stockroom.

Ensuring that any known allergies are taken into consideration when planning class activities e.g cooking, Healthy eating weeks or class parties etc.

Ensuring that medication and the appropriate Care Plan is with them during any off site activity.

During Educational Visits -

The Group leader will check with any food provider and ensure appropriate food is provided, and that an effective control is in place to minimise risk of exposure.

Where a pupil has been prescribed an EpiPen, the Group leader will ensure that they or another suitable member of staff is trained in the use of the EpiPen and are capable of performing any required medical treatment as outlined in the Care Plan. This will include the transportation of at least two EpiPens and the Care Plan of the child concerned

The Group Leader will ensure that pupils with known allergies are named in the risk assessment.

Equality

At St Mary's R.C. Primary School, in line with the 2017 Equality Act, we aim to:

- Eliminate discrimination.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- Foster good relations across all characteristics - between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Policy to be read in conjunction with:

Staff Induction Policy

Pupil Induction Policy

Educational Visits Policy

Health and Safety Policy

First Aid Policy

Policy written - D Martin

Approved by Governors

Review Date: July 2025

All staff trained March 2023

