King's Court First School

Allergy Policy

Headteacher: Sue Pye-Beraet
Allergy Lead: Baljit Rai
Governing Body: Joy Montgomery
Policy review date: October 2027

Benedict's Law and Allergy Safety

Benedict's Law refers to the allergy safety measures introduced following the death of five-year-old **Benedict Blythe**, who suffered a fatal anaphylactic reaction at school in 2021. The subsequent campaign led by his family resulted in new statutory allergy safety guidance for schools in England.

[benedictblythe.com],
[gov.uk]
[allergyschool.org.uk]
[anaphylaxis.org.uk]

The guidance requires schools to adopt a whole-school approach to allergy management and aims to ensure that children with allergies can attend school safely and be fully included in all aspects of school life.

In line with the principles of Benedict's Law, King's Court First School will:

- Maintain and publish a dedicated Allergy Safety Policy.
- Ensure all staff receive regular allergy awareness and anaphylaxis training.
- Maintain appropriate emergency medication, including spare adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) where permitted and appropriate.
- Develop and review Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) for pupils with diagnosed allergies.
- Record, monitor and learn from allergic reactions, incidents and near misses.
- Work closely with parents, carers and healthcare professionals to support pupils with allergies.
- Promote an inclusive environment where pupils with allergies can safely participate in educational visits, clubs, meals and all school activities.

Allergy Safety Policy

King's Court First School

In accordance with the Department for Education's *Allergy Safety in Schools* statutory guidance and the principles of Benedict's Law

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1. Policy Statement

King's Court First School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all pupils, including those with allergies. We recognise that allergies can range from mild to life-threatening and that an allergic reaction may occur at any time.

The school is committed to reducing the risk of exposure to allergens, ensuring staff are appropriately trained, and responding effectively to allergic reactions and anaphylaxis. This policy supports the safety, wellbeing and full inclusion of pupils with allergies in all aspects of school life. The policy reflects the requirements set out in the Department for Education's statutory guidance *Allergy Safety in Schools* (July 2026) and the protections introduced through Benedict's Law.

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2. Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- Safeguard pupils with allergies.
- Promote an inclusive environment where pupils with allergies can participate fully in school life.
- Minimise the risk of exposure to allergens.
- Ensure staff understand allergy management and emergency procedures.
- Provide clear guidance for parents, staff, visitors and contractors.
- Ensure effective communication between home, school and healthcare professionals.
- Comply with statutory requirements regarding allergy safety.

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3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All pupils.
- All employees, including temporary and supply staff.
- Volunteers.
- Governors.
- Visitors.
- Contractors working on site where relevant.

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4. Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body

The Governing Body will:

- Ensure the school complies with relevant legislation and statutory guidance.
- Monitor implementation of this policy.
- Ensure sufficient resources are available for training and emergency medication.

The Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- Oversee implementation of this policy.
- Ensure appropriate training is provided.
- Ensure Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) are in place where required.
- Ensure incidents are recorded and reviewed.

Allergy Lead

The designated member of the Senior Leadership Team to act as allergy lead is Baljit Rai, along with Trudie Horsburgh (DSL), Office team)

The Allergy Lead will:

- Coordinate allergy provision across the school.
- Maintain allergy records.
- Monitor staff training.
- Review procedures after incidents and near misses.
- Liaise with parents and healthcare professionals.

Staff

All staff are responsible for:

- Being aware of pupils with allergies.
- Following healthcare plans and risk assessments.
- Attending training.
- Knowing how to recognise and respond to allergic reactions.
- Reporting incidents and concerns promptly.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are responsible for:

- Informing the school of any allergy diagnosis.
- Providing medical evidence where appropriate.
- Supplying prescribed medication in date.
- Ensuring emergency medication is replaced before expiry.
- Updating the school regarding any changes to their child's condition.

5. Identification of Pupils with Allergies

The school will identify pupils with allergies through:

- Admission forms.
- Health questionnaires.
- Information from parents and healthcare professionals.
- Annual medical information updates.

A confidential allergy register will be maintained and regularly reviewed.
Relevant staff will be informed of pupils' allergies on a need-to-know basis.

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6. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

Where a pupil has a diagnosed allergy that requires ongoing management, an Individual Healthcare Plan will be developed in partnership with:

- Parents/carers.
- Appropriate healthcare professionals.
- Relevant school staff.

The IHP will include:

- Details of allergens.
- Symptoms of allergic reactions.
- Emergency procedures.
- Medication requirements.
- Named contacts.
- Arrangements for educational visits and extracurricular activities.

Healthcare Plans will be reviewed:

- Annually.
- Following any allergic reaction.
- When medical advice changes.

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7. Reducing Allergy Risks

The school acknowledges that it cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment. However, reasonable measures will be taken to reduce risks.

These measures may include:

Classroom Management

- Risk assessing curriculum activities involving food.
- Careful management of craft materials and ingredients.
- Avoiding unnecessary use of known allergens where possible.

Food and Catering

- Maintaining communication with catering providers.
- Sharing relevant allergy information with kitchen staff.
- Encouraging careful food handling practices.
- Discouraging sharing of food between pupils.

Hand Hygiene

Pupils and staff will be encouraged to wash hands:

- Before and after eating.
- Following food-handling activities.

Cleaning

The site team will ensure appropriate cleaning procedures are followed to minimise allergen contamination.

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8. Educational Visits and Off-Site Activities

Pupils with allergies will be fully included in educational visits and extracurricular activities wherever reasonably possible.
Risk assessments will consider:

- Food provision.
- Medication access.
- Staff supervision.
- Emergency procedures.
- Distance from emergency services where relevant.

A trained member of staff will accompany the pupil where necessary.
Emergency medication must accompany the pupil at all times.

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9. Staff Training

All staff who may be present whilst pupils are on site will receive allergy awareness training appropriate to their role. This includes teaching staff, support staff, office staff, lunchtime supervisors, breakfast club staff and after-school club staff.
Training will cover:

- Understanding allergies.
- Recognising symptoms of allergic reactions.
- Recognising anaphylaxis.
- Emergency procedures.
- Use of adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs).
- Individual Healthcare Plans.

- Record keeping and incident reporting.

Training will be refreshed regularly and records maintained.

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10. Emergency Medication

Where prescribed, pupils should have immediate access to their own adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs).
The school will:

- Store medication in accordance with healthcare plans.
- Ensure medications are easily accessible.
- Monitor expiry dates.
- Maintain records of medication held.

In accordance with statutory guidance, the school will hold spare in-date AAIs for emergency use where legally permitted and appropriate.

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11. Emergency Procedures

Signs of Anaphylaxis

Symptoms may include:

- Difficulty breathing.
- Wheezing.
- Swelling of lips, tongue or throat.
- Persistent cough.
- Hoarse voice.
- Collapse or loss of consciousness.
- Severe rash or widespread hives.

Response

If anaphylaxis is suspected:

1. Administer the prescribed AAI immediately.
2. Dial 999 and request an ambulance, stating "anaphylaxis".
3. Contact parents/carers as soon as possible.
4. Keep the pupil lying down or seated comfortably.
5. Administer a second AAI if advised by emergency services or in accordance with the pupil's healthcare plan.
6. Ensure the pupil is taken to hospital even if symptoms improve.

No child experiencing anaphylaxis should be left unattended.

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12. Record Keeping and Incident Reporting

The school will maintain records of:

- Pupils with allergies.
- Staff training.
- Medication held.
- Allergic reactions.
- Near misses.
- Emergency medication administration.

All incidents will be reviewed to identify learning points and reduce future risks.

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13. Inclusion and Anti-Bullying

The school recognises that pupils with allergies must be able to participate fully in school life.
Bullying, teasing or exclusion relating to allergies will not be tolerated and will be addressed through the school's Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies.

Reasonable adjustments will be made to enable participation in:

- School trips.
- School meals.
- Clubs.
- Celebrations and special events.
- Curriculum activities.

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14. Visitors and Contractors

Visitors, volunteers and contractors will be expected to comply with school procedures intended to protect pupils with allergies.

Relevant information will be shared where necessary to ensure pupil safety.

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15. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be:

- Reviewed annually.
- Reviewed following any significant allergic incident.
- Updated to reflect changes in legislation or statutory guidance.

The Headteacher and Governing Body are responsible for monitoring the policy's effectiveness.

Related Documents

- Managing Medicines in Schools Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Asthma Policy

Related Forms

- Record of Medicine – In/Out of School Form
- Individual Health Care Plan
- Parental Agreement to Administer Medicine
- Record of Medicine Administered Form

Approval and Review

Version	Date	Review Date
1.0	October 2026	October 2027