

Chiswick and Bedford Park Preparatory School

Allergy Policy

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This 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.
- 1.2 Chiswick & Bedford Park Preparatory School is aware that staff and children who attend may suffer from a range of allergies including those to food, bee/wasp sting, animal or nut allergies and believe that all allergies should be taken seriously and dealt with in a professional and appropriate way.
- 1.3 Chiswick & Bedford Park Preparatory 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. For more on this regarding nuts, please see our separate nut-free policy.
- 1.4 Chiswick & Bedford Park Preparatory School is committed to children not sharing food and drink.
- 1.5 Parents are asked to provide details of allergies on admission to the school.

2 Aim

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

3 The underlying principles of this policy include:

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

4 Role of (other) parents:

- 4.1 Snacks and lunches provided by parents should be peanut and nut free.
- 4.2 The school will ensure that parents are regularly reminded of the importance of nut free lunchboxes and snacks.



5 Definitions

- 5.1 *Allergy*: A condition in which the body has an exaggerated response to a substance (eg food or drug) also known as hypersensitivity.
- 5.2 *Allergen*: A normally harmless substance that triggers an allergic reaction in the immune system of a susceptible person.
- 5.3 *Anaphylaxis*: Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a sudden, severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction to food, stings, bites, or medicines.
- 5.4 *Epipen*: Brand name for syringe style device containing the drug Adrenalin, which is ready for immediate intramuscular administration.
- 5.5 *Minimised Risk Environment*: An environment where risk management practices (eg; risk assessment forms) have minimised the risk of (allergen) exposure.
- 5.6 *Risk Assessment/ Health Care Plan*: A detailed document outlining an individual child's condition, treatment and action plan.

6 Allergy Management

6.1 Responsibilities and procedures:

- 6.1.1 The involvement of parents and staff in establishing individual risk assessments/ Health Care Plans.
- 6.1.2 The establishment and maintenance of practices for effectively communicating a child's healthcare plans to all relevant staff.
- 6.1.3 Staff training in anaphylaxis management, including awareness of triggers, and first aid procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency.
- 6.1.4 Age appropriate education of the children with severe food allergies.
- 6.1.5 The use of coloured plates and individual lanyards in the school dining hall for immediate indication to all adults of allergies.

6.2 Medical information

- 6.2.1 Parents will initially highlight on a child's school admission form ***before*** starting school.
- 6.2.2 For children with medicine, this should be clearly labelled and given to the school office at the start of the term/year. This will then be kept in a locked box out of the reach of children. The only exception to this is Epipens, which should be with the named child at all times.



6.2.3 Any change in a child's medical condition during the year must be reported to the school.

6.2.4 The Head teacher and Deputy Head teacher will ensure that, where needed, a Health Care Plan is established and updated for children with allergies

6.3 Epipens

6.3.1 Where Epipens (Adrenalin) are required in the Health Care Plan:

6.3.2 Parents/guardians are responsible for the provision and timely replacement of the Epipens. Two Epipens will be required.

6.3.3 Epipens will be kept with the pupil in a red first aid pouch at all times. These will accompany the children in all classes, clubs, lunch, assemblies and on or off site activities, such as swimming and sport.

6.3.4 Epipen training will be refreshed for all staff when we have a child that requires an Epipen. (Last staff training day completed September 2022).

6.4 Parent's Role

Parents are responsible for providing medical information about their child's allergy in writing, by filling out our initial risk assessment form for food allergies. The form includes:

6.4.1 The allergen (the substance the child is allergic to).

6.4.2 The nature of the allergic reaction (from rash, breathing problems to anaphylactic shock).

6.4.3 What to do in case of allergic reaction, including any medication to be used and how it is to be used.

6.4.4 Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from getting into contact with the allergen.

6.4.5 It is the responsibility of the parent to provide the school with up to date medication/ equipment clearly labelled in the original container.

6.4.6 In the case of life saving medication like Epipens the child will not be allowed to attend without it.

6.4.7 Parents are also required to provide up to date emergency contact information.



- 6.4.8 Snacks and lunches brought into school are provided by each child's parent. It is their responsibility to ensure that the contents are safe for the child to consume. Parents should liaise with staff about appropriateness of snacks and any food-related activities (eg cooking, science experiments)

6.5 Staff role

- 6.5.1 Staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with the policy and to adhere to health & safety regulations regarding food and drink.
- 6.5.2 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.
- 6.5.3 All staff will promote hand washing before and after eating. Snack time food is prepared at home that is monitored by staff and must be peanut and nut free (and other allergens depending on the children attending). All staff will know the procedures at snack and lunch time to ensure the safety of children with allergies. However, staff cannot guarantee that foods consumed by other children will not contain traces of nuts.
- 6.5.4 All tables are cleaned with an approved solution.
- 6.5.5 Staff will be vigilant at all times and continue to ensure all pupils are aware that they are not permitted to share food.
- 6.5.6 As part of the staff first aid course, Epipen use and storage has been discussed.
- 6.5.7 Emergency medication will be easily accessible to staff, especially at times of high risk.

6.6 Actions

In the event of a child suffering an allergic reaction:

- 6.6.1 We will delegate someone to contact the child's parents.
- 6.6.2 If a child becomes distressed or symptoms become more serious telephone 999
- 6.6.3 Keep calm, make the child feel comfortable and give the child space.
- 6.6.4 If medication is available, it will be administered as per training and in conjunction with the Medication Policy.
- 6.6.5 If parents or responsible adult have not arrived by the time ambulance arrives a member of staff will accompany the child to hospital.

