

Tempo Primary School



Allergies Policy 2024

Introduction

This policy is concerned with a whole school approach to the healthcare and management of those members of the school community suffering from specific allergies. We are aware that children who attend Tempo Primary School may suffer from food, bee or wasp sting, animal or nut allergies and we believe that all allergies should be taken seriously and dealt with in a professional and appropriate way.

Aim

The aim of this policy is to minimise the risk of any child suffering allergy-related illness or allergy-induced anaphylaxis whilst at school.

The principles of this policy include:

- Effective risk management practices to minimise exposure to trigger foods and allergens.
- Staff training to ensure an effective emergency response to any allergic reaction situation.

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** – Brand name for syringe style device containing the drug adrenaline, which is ready for immediate intramuscular administration.
- **Care Plan** – a detailed document outlining an individual child's condition, treatment, and action plan for location of EpiPen.

Procedures and Responsibilities for Allergy Management

General

- All children identified as having a serious allergy will have a Care Plan in place.
- Effective communication regarding a child's Care Plan will involve all relevant staff.
- Staff training on awareness of triggers and first aid procedures (including EpiPen training), will be followed in the event of an emergency.

Medical Information

- Parents/guardians must report any change in their child's medical condition
- to the school.
- Emergency procedures for children with allergies will be posted in the staffroom, secretary and principal's office, with parental permission.
- Where pupils with known allergies are participating in school excursions, risk assessments will include this information.

EpiPens

Where EpiPens (adrenaline) are required in the Care Plan, these will be stored securely in the classroom store and clearly labelled.

Parents are responsible for:

- The provision and timely replacement of the EpiPens.
- Providing accurate and current medical information to the school.

Parents are also responsible for confirming and detailing the nature of the allergy, including:

- The allergen (the substance the child is allergic to).
- The nature of the allergic reaction (from rash, breathing problems to anaphylactic shock).
- What to do in case of allergic reaction, including any medication and how it is to be used.
- Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from contacting the allergen.

Staff role

- Staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with the policy and must adhere to health & safety regulations regarding food and drink.
- The child's details will be added to the school's medical register, and a Care Plan put in place (stored in their SEN folder).

- The principal will determine if a ban on certain foods is needed after consultation with the parent/guardian and health professionals. If appropriate, this will then be publicised to the whole school community.
- All relevant staff will be made aware of any treatment/medication required and where this is stored.

Teachers and key support staff will:

- Promote handwashing before and after eating.
- Liaise with parents about snacks and any food-related activities.
- Ask the parent for a list of food products and food derivatives the child must not come into contact with.

Catering staff will:

- Maintain a list of known allergens in the school meal menus and these can be shared with parents and guardians.
- Catering staff will provide full ingredient lists and allergen labelling on foods pre-packaged and distributed on the premises.

Pre-packaged food will clearly display the following information on its packaging:

- The food's name.
- A full list of ingredients, emphasising any allergenic ingredients.

The labelling will apply to all food made on-site and packaged, such as sandwiches, wraps and cakes. This includes food offered at mealtimes or packed lunches (for school trips).

Common allergens include (but are not exclusive):

- Celery
- Cereals containing gluten (such as barley and oats)
- Crustaceans (such as prawns, crabs and lobsters)
- Eggs
- Fish
- Lupin
- Milk
- Molluscs (such as mussels and oysters)
- Mustard
- Peanuts
- Sesame
- Soybeans
- Sulphur dioxide and sulphites (if they are at a concentration of more than ten parts per million)
- Tree nuts (such as almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts, Brazil nuts, cashews, pecans, pistachios and macadamia nuts)

The school cannot, however, guarantee that foods will not contain traces of nuts or other allergens.

All staff receive regular First Aid training, including EpiPen use, and storage.

Emergency medication should be easily accessible, especially at times of high risk.

Actions

In the event of a child suffering an allergic reaction:

- If it is not an emergency situation, follow instructions on their Care Plan.
- If a child has an EpiPen and is suffering an extreme allergic reaction, administer the medication immediately, then call 999.
- Contact parent to advise, or ask for advice if symptoms are less severe.

Signed Chair of Governors

Date/...../.....

Review date