



BEESTON HALL SCHOOL

signed by:

Henrietta Lindsell 11th Sept 2023

ALLERGY / ALLERGEN POLICY

- 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.
- Beeston Hall is aware that staff and children who attend may suffer from allergies arising from insect stings, animals, nuts, dairy or other food stuffs, and undertaken to deal with these in a professional and appropriate way.
- Beeston Hall 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.
- Beeston Hall is committed to children not sharing food and drink.
- Parents are asked to provide details of their children's allergies as part of the Beeston Hall EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE QUESTIONNAIRE which accompanies admissions documentation. A separate form for short stay visitors is available [here](#).

AIM

The aim 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 trigger foods, insects and climatic changes.
- School nurse to arrange 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, guardians, volunteers, supply staff and pupils.

DEFINITIONS

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, or medicines.

Epipen/Jext: Brand name for syringe style device containing the drug Adrenalin, which is ready for immediate intramuscular administration.

Minimised Risk Environment: An environment where risk management practices (eg risk assessment forms) have minimised the risk of (allergen) exposure.

Risk Assessment/ Health Care Plan: A detailed document outlining an individual child's condition, treatment and action plan.

ALLERGY MANAGEMENT

Procedures and Responsibilities

- The involvement of parents and staff in establishing individual risk assessments/ Health Care Plans.
- The establishment and maintenance of practices for effectively communicating a child's healthcare plans to all relevant staff.
- School nurse to arrange staff training in anaphylaxis management, including awareness of triggers, and first aid procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency.
- Age appropriate education of the children with severe food allergies.
- School nurse will update staff annually, or whenever a new pupil arrives, with a list of children with allergies/medical conditions.

Medical Information:

- Parents will initially highlight on a child's school admission form before starting school.
- For children with a food allergy, parents will be asked to supply a care plan from their allergy Dr/nurse.
- Any change in a child's medical condition during the year must be reported to the school.
- The School Nurse will ensure that, where needed, a Health Care Plan is established and updated for children with allergies.

Epipens/Jext Pens:

Where Epipens/Jext pens (Adrenalin) are required in the Health Care Plan:

- Parents/guardians are responsible for the provision and timely replacement of the Epipens/Jext pens.

Two Epipens/Jext pens will be required.

- Epipens/Jext pens should be carried with the child at all times under supervision of a member of staff OR will be kept in a named bag/box in the surgery, depending on the age of the child.
- Epipen/Jext pen training will be refreshed for all staff when we have a child that requires an Epipen.

Parents' Role

Parents are responsible for providing medical information about their child's allergy in writing, on the Healthcare Questionnaire and any Care Plan from their Allergy doctor or nurse.

This must include:

- 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 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/Jext pen or the risk assessment deems it necessary, a Health Care Plan must be completed and signed by the parents.

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

In the case of life-saving medication like Epipens/Jext pen the child will not be allowed to attend without it.

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

Parents to sign a consent form for emergency AAI to be used if child's AAI fails for any reason.

Staff Roles

- Staff are responsible for attending training and to request additional training as required
- Training log to be maintained by Headmaster's PA
- Staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with the policy and to adhere to health & safety regulations regarding food and drink.
- If a child's admission form states that they have an allergy then the parents must provide written information before the child starts attending school. Any actions identified to be put in place. If a child has an allergy requiring an Epipen/Jext pen, a Health Care Plan must be completed by school nurse/ or have a copy of Careplan from allergy doctor and/or nurse.
- 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 food is monitored by staff and are peanut, 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.
- All tables are cleaned with an approved solution.
- Children are not permitted to share food.
- As part of the staff first aid course, Epipen/Jext pen use and storage has been discussed.
- We may ask the parent for a list of food products and food derivatives the child must not come into contact with.
- Emergency medication will be easily accessible, especially at times of high risk.

- Staff should liaise with parents about snacks and any food-related activities; parental consent should be sought.

Actions In the event of a child suffering an allergic reaction:

- We will delegate someone to contact the child's parents
- If a child becomes distressed or symptoms become more serious telephone 999
- Keep calm, make the child feel comfortable and give the child space
- If medication is available it will be administered as per training and in conjunction with policy 13d Administration of Medicines
- If parents or responsible adult have not arrived by the time ambulance arrives a member of staff will accompany the child to hospital
- We will institute a 'lessons learnt' procedure.

Created by Nurse Alison 15.11.21

Reviewed by Bob Hammond 16.11.21

Reviewed and amended F de Falbe 31.01.23

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