Wadham School
Allergy Safety Policy

Signed: ……. Date: ……..

Who is responsible?	**Governing Body**
Statutory Policy	**Yes**
Approval Date	**October 2027**
Next Review	**September 2027**

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1. Policy Statement

Wadham School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all pupils, staff, contractors, volunteers and visitors with allergies. We recognise that allergies can significantly affect health, wellbeing and educational participation and that severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) can be life-threatening. This policy sets out the arrangements in place to identify, manage and reduce allergy risks and to ensure a prompt and effective response in the event of an allergic reaction or anaphylaxis.

The school complies with the requirements of Section 34 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 and associated statutory guidance.

2. Scope This policy applies to:

All pupils. * All employees. * Temporary and agency staff. * Supply teachers. * Contractors working directly with pupils. * Volunteers. * Visitors attending school activities and events. The policy covers: * Food allergies. * Asthma associated with allergy. * Eczema. * Hay fever. * Insect sting allergies. * Medication allergies. * Environmental, airborne and contact allergies. * Other medically diagnosed allergic conditions.

3. Leadership and Responsibility

The designated member of the Senior Leadership Team responsible for allergy safety is **Sarah Coombe, Designated Safeguarding Lead**. Responsibilities include:

- Leading implementation of this policy.
- Ensuring allergy safety procedures are maintained.
- Coordinating staff training.
- Monitoring incidents and near misses.
- Ensuring appropriate medication arrangements are in place.
- Leading policy reviews.
- Working with families and healthcare providers where required.

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- Ensuring this policy is implemented effectively.
- Reviewing allergy-related incidents and lessons learned.
- Ensuring resources are available to support allergy safety.
- Making the policy publicly available.

4. Allergy Awareness and Training

The school will provide annual allergy awareness and emergency response training for all staff who may be present while pupils are on site. This includes Teaching staff,

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Support staff, Senior leaders, Catering staff, Agency and temporary staff, Peripatetic staff, Regular volunteers.

Training will cover: Understanding allergy and associated conditions, Differences between food allergy, food intolerance and coeliac disease. Common allergy triggers. Signs and symptoms of allergic reactions. Recognition of anaphylaxis. Emergency procedures. Calling emergency services. Informing parents/carers. Locating emergency medication. Administration of adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs). Administration of emergency asthma medication where appropriate. Use of school spare AAIs. Understanding Allergy and Asthma Action Plans. Strategies to reduce allergen exposure. Recording and reporting incidents and near misses. Impact of allergies on pupil wellbeing.

New staff will receive allergy awareness information as part of their induction. Supply and cover staff will be provided with information regarding pupils with allergies and emergency arrangements before assuming responsibility for pupils.

5. Wellbeing and Inclusion

The school recognises that living with an allergy can cause anxiety, stress and social isolation. To support pupil wellbeing, the school will:

- Promote an inclusive school environment.
- Encourage pupils to participate fully and safely in school life.
- Support pupils in developing confidence in managing their allergies.
- Ensure pupils with allergies are not unfairly excluded from activities.

The school has a zero-tolerance approach to bullying, teasing or discrimination related to allergies or medical conditions. Any incidents will be managed in accordance with the school's Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies.

6. Identification of Individuals with Allergies

The school will maintain an up-to-date register of pupils with allergies. Information will be gathered through:

- Admission forms.
- Medical information forms.
- Parent/carer communication.
- Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Allergy Action Plans.
- Information from previous settings.
- Information from healthcare professionals where provided.

The register will record: Known allergens. Prescribed medications. Location of medication. Emergency contact details. Individual Healthcare Plan status. Allergy

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Action Plan status. Where appropriate, information regarding staff and regular visitors with severe allergies will also be recorded.

7. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

An Individual Healthcare Plan will be implemented where:

- A pupil's allergy has a functional impact on school life.
- There is a risk of harm from the allergy.
- Additional or different arrangements are required beyond those available to all pupils.

The IHP will include:

- Details of the allergy.
- Known allergens.
- Symptoms.
- Required reasonable adjustments.
- Medication requirements.
- Emergency procedures.
- Contact details.
- Staff responsibilities

Allergy Action Plans and Asthma Action Plans supplied by healthcare professionals will be attached to, or referenced within, the IHP. Plans will be reviewed, annually, following any allergic reaction, when medical advice changes or when updated medical documentation is received.

8. Minimising Risk

The school will take reasonable steps to minimise exposure to known allergens. Measures include:

- Food Provided by the School
- Catering providers will comply with food allergen legislation.
- Accurate allergen information will be available.
- Staff will be informed of significant food allergy risks.
- Procedures will be in place to reduce cross-contamination where possible.
- Food Brought onto site, Parents, staff and pupils may be asked to avoid specific foods where risk assessments identify a significant hazard.
- Food sharing will be discouraged.
- Airborne and Contact Allergens Where pupils have known airborne or contact allergies, reasonable adjustments will be implemented, including careful classroom planning. cleaning procedures, restrictions on specific materials where appropriate.

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- Curriculum Activities Staff planning activities will consider allergen risks during: Science lessons. Food technology. Art and craft activities. Music activities. Animal-related activities. Enrichment programmes. Alternative arrangements will be made where necessary.
- Educational Visits Allergy risks will form part of visit planning and risk assessments.

9. Food Allergy Management

- The school will work closely with catering providers to ensure:
- Food allergens are identified.
- Allergen information is available.
- Staff understand procedures for managing food allergies.
- Communication systems allow allergy concerns to be shared effectively.
- Where appropriate, individual risk assessments will be undertaken.

10. Prescribed Adrenaline Autoinjectors (AAIs)

Pupils prescribed adrenaline auto-injectors must always have rapid access to their medication. The school will ensure:

* Medication is immediately accessible.

* Access is available during lessons, breaks, sporting activities and educational visits.

* Access is possible within five minutes in an emergency.

Parents/carers are responsible for:

* Providing in-date medication.

* Replacing medication before expiry.

* Informing school of any medical changes.

The school will maintain records of:

* Prescribed AAIs.

* Expiry dates.

* Allergy Action Plans.

Spare Adrenaline Devices

The school will maintain emergency spare AAIs in accordance with statutory guidance.

The school will ensure:

- Spare devices are clearly labelled.

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- Devices are readily accessible and not locked away.
- Devices are stored in pairs.
- Appropriate dosages are available.
- Devices are located so that no pupil is more than five minutes from access to adrenaline.

The school will maintain designated Emergency Anaphylaxis Kits containing: Spare adrenaline auto-injectors. Emergency asthma reliever inhaler. Spacer devices. Emergency instructions. The school will maintain systems for: Regular expiry date checks. Replacement of expired devices. Replacement following use. Safe disposal of used devices.

12. Emergency Response

Staff will treat all suspected cases of anaphylaxis as medical emergencies. In the event of suspected anaphylaxis:

1. Administer adrenaline immediately.

2. Call 999 and request an ambulance.

3. State that anaphylaxis is suspected.

4. Contact parents/carers.

5. Monitor the individual continuously.

6. Administer a second dose of adrenaline if required and available.

7. Record and report the incident. Following any administration of adrenaline, emergency medical assessment is required.

13. Educational Visits and School Trips

Pupils with allergies will be supported to participate fully in educational visits. Planning arrangements will include:

- Individual risk assessments.
- Access to prescribed medication.
- Access to spare AAIs where appropriate.
- Identification of appropriately trained staff.
- Consideration of catering and food arrangements.
- Emergency procedures and communication arrangements.
- Pupils at risk of anaphylaxis will carry or have immediate access to their prescribed adrenaline device.

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14. Recording, Reporting and Learning from Incidents

The school will record:

- Allergic reactions.
- Anaphylaxis incidents.
- Medication administration.
- Near misses.
- Concerns raised by pupils, parents or staff.
- Incidents will be reviewed to identify:
- Contributing factors.
- Lessons learned.

Required policy or procedural changes. Where appropriate, findings will be shared with relevant staff and governors.

15. Information Sharing and Confidentiality Allergy information

Information Sharing and Confidentiality Allergy information is treated as special category personal data under UK GDPR. Information will be:

- Shared only where necessary.
- Accurate and current.
- Accessible to relevant staff.
- Stored securely.

The school will balance privacy with the need to keep pupils safe. Information will only be disclosed to staff who require it in order to discharge their safeguarding and duty of care responsibilities.

16. Raising Awareness

This policy will be:

- Published on the school website.
- Available in hard copy upon request.
- Included in staff induction.
- Referenced during annual allergy awareness training.
- The school will promote allergy awareness among pupils through age-appropriate education and discussion.

Where appropriate, and with parental agreement, friends and peers of pupils at risk of anaphylaxis may be given information on how to seek adult assistance in an emergency.

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17. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed:

- Annually as a minimum.
- Following any serious allergy incident.
- Following significant near misses.
- Following updates to statutory guidance or legislation.

Reviews will consider:

- Incident reports.
- Near misses.
- Feedback from pupils.
- Feedback from parents/carers.
- Staff feedback.
- Recommendations from healthcare professionals where appropriate.

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