



Allergy Safety Policy

Policy Statement

At Bloomsbury Nursery School and Goodway Nursery School, we recognise that allergies can have a significant impact on the health, safety and wellbeing of children and adults. Allergic reactions can range from mild symptoms to life-threatening anaphylaxis.

We are committed to providing a safe, inclusive environment where children with allergies can participate fully in all aspects of setting life.

This policy sets out how we will identify and manage allergies, minimise the risk of exposure, support children with known allergies, ensure appropriate emergency arrangements are in place and ensure staff are confident in responding to an allergic reaction.

This policy should be read alongside our Medical Needs, Safeguarding and Educational Visits policies.

Legislative and guidance framework

For schools in England, this policy should be read alongside the Department for Education's Allergy Safety in Schools statutory guidance, introduced under the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026. Section 34 requires LA-maintained schools, academies and PRUs to have an allergy safety policy.

The DfE guidance is effective from September 2026 and covers allergy safety policy, staff training, Individual Healthcare Plans, emergency medication and learning from serious incidents and near misses.

Settings should consider which elements of this policy apply to their own legal status and setting type.

Named Allergy Lead – Tamar Cohen: Bloomsbury Nursery School and Rachel Uredi: Goodway Nursery School

A named member of the senior leadership team will have responsibility for allergy safety.

The Allergy Lead will:

- Oversee implementation of this policy.
- Ensure allergy arrangements are regularly reviewed.

- Coordinate allergy awareness and emergency-response training.
- Ensure allergy information is kept accurate and accessible to appropriate staff.
- Monitor Individual Healthcare Plans and Allergy Action Plans.
- Ensure emergency medication arrangements are effective.
- Review incidents and near misses.
- Identify improvements required following incidents.
- Promote a positive and inclusive culture around allergy safety.

The policy will be reviewed at least annually and sooner where an incident or near miss identifies a potential risk.

Allergy Awareness and Staff Training

All staff will receive allergy awareness and emergency-response training at least annually.

Training will apply to staff who may be present while children are on site, including:

- Teachers and early years practitioners.
- Teaching assistants.
- Temporary and supply staff.
- Agency workers.
- Peripatetic staff.
- Regular volunteers.
- Catering staff.
- Breakfast and after-school club staff.
- Other staff who may supervise children.

New staff will receive appropriate allergy information as part of their induction.

Bloomsbury Nursery School and Goodway Nursery School will also have arrangements to ensure temporary, supply and cover staff understand relevant allergy procedures.

Training should ensure staff:

- Understand what allergies are and the risks they present.
- Understand that allergies can include food, asthma, eczema, hay fever and other conditions, which can co-exist.
- Understand the difference between food allergy, coeliac disease and food intolerance.
- Know where to find information about individual allergy triggers.
- Recognise the symptoms of an allergic reaction.
- Recognise anaphylaxis.

- Know how to respond in an emergency.
- Know how to contact emergency services and parents/carers.
- Know where emergency medication is stored.
- Understand how to use emergency medication/devices.
- Understand the impact allergies can have on children's wellbeing.
- Understand this Allergy Safety Policy.
- Know how to access allergy and asthma action plans.
- Understand their role in reducing allergen exposure.
- Know how to report allergic reactions and near misses.

These requirements reflect the DfE's training expectations.

Supporting Children's Wellbeing

We recognise that living with an allergy can cause anxiety for children and their families.

Bloomsbury Nursery School and Goodway Nursery School will:

- Treat allergies seriously and respectfully.
- Avoid unnecessarily singling children out because of their allergy.
- Promote inclusion and participation.
- Consider the emotional wellbeing of children with allergies.
- Address any bullying, teasing or exclusion related to allergies.
- Work with parents/carers to understand any concerns their child may have.

Children should not be excluded from activities simply because they have an allergy where reasonable measures can safely manage the risk.

Identifying Children with Allergies

Parents/carers will be asked to provide information about known allergies when their child joins the setting.

Information should include:

- The allergen.
- Known symptoms.
- Previous reactions.
- Emergency medication.
- Allergy Action Plan.
- Individual Healthcare Plan where applicable.
- Medication arrangements.

- Emergency contact information.
- Advice provided by healthcare professionals.

Where appropriate, information should also be obtained from a child's previous setting.

Bloomsbury Nursery School and Goodway Nursery School will maintain an up-to-date record of children with known allergies and whether they have an Individual Healthcare Plan, Allergy Action Plan or prescribed emergency medication.

Where relevant, allergy information relating to staff and visitors will also be considered.

Individual Healthcare Plans

A child should have an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) where their allergy:

- Has a functional impact on them within the setting;
- Places them at risk of harm; and
- Requires arrangements that are additional to or different from those generally provided.

The IHP will explain the additional arrangements required to support the child, including arrangements for emergencies.

This may include reasonable adjustments and medication requirements.

Where a child has an Allergy Action Plan or Asthma Action Plan provided by a healthcare professional, this should be referred to or attached to the IHP.

An IHP will be reviewed when circumstances change and when an updated professional action plan is provided.

Minimising the Risk of Exposure

Bloomsbury Nursery School and Goodway Nursery School will take reasonable measures to minimise the risk of children, staff or visitors coming into contact with known allergens.

This includes considering:

Food provided by the setting

- Checking ingredients and allergen information.
- Communicating allergy information to relevant staff.
- Following food hygiene procedures.
- Taking reasonable steps to prevent cross-contamination.
- Ensuring appropriate supervision during meals.

Food brought into the setting

Bloomsbury Nursery School and Goodway Nursery School will consider the risks associated with food brought in by:

- Parents/carers.

- Children.
- Staff.
- Visitors.

Non-food allergens

Where a child has an allergy to an airborne or contact allergen, reasonable measures will be considered to reduce their risk of exposure.

Activities

Staff planning activities must consider potential allergen exposure, including:

- Cooking.
- Baking.
- Arts and crafts.
- Sensory activities.
- Science activities.
- Gardening.
- Musical activities.
- Animal-related activities.
- Outdoor learning.

Food Allergy

Bloomsbury Nursery School and Goodway Nursery School will maintain clear procedures for managing food allergies.

All relevant staff will have access to current allergen information.

Food provided to children will be checked carefully and appropriate measures will be taken to reduce the risk of accidental exposure.

Children with allergies will be supported to participate in meals, snacks, cooking and celebrations wherever this can be done safely.

Prescribed Adrenaline Auto-Injectors

Where a child has been prescribed an adrenaline auto-injector (AAI), Bloomsbury Nursery School and Goodway Nursery School will ensure that the child has rapid access to their medication at all times.

This includes:

- Indoors.
- Outdoor areas.

- Playgrounds.
- Sports activities.
- Mealtimes.
- Educational visits.
- Trips away from the setting.

The DfE guidance states that adrenaline should be administered within five minutes in a case of anaphylaxis, so medication must be accessible quickly.

Bloomsbury Nursery School and Goodway Nursery School will maintain records of children who have prescribed adrenaline devices and their relevant Allergy Action Plans.

Parents/carers will be asked to ensure medication remains in date.

Spare Adrenaline Auto-Injectors

Where applicable spare adrenaline devices will be managed in accordance with current guidance.

This policy specifies:

- Bloomsbury Nursery School AAls are stored – In the main office
- Goodway Nursery School AAls are stored – In an Emergency Bag in the main corridor
- AAls will be used in an emergency if a child is experiencing anaphylaxis
- AAls at Bloomsbury Nursery School are readily accessible in the small pocket at the front of the bag in the main office.
- AAls at Goodway Nursery are readily accessible in the main section of the emergency bag.
- Expiry dates are checked termly.
- Replacement devices are obtained through the Pharmacy.
- Used or expired devices are disposed of safely through the Pharmacy.

Spare adrenaline devices should be readily accessible and must not be locked away.

They should be stored in pairs so that a second device is immediately available if required.

Schools should ensure that no child is more than five minutes from appropriate adrenaline devices.

Recognising and Responding to Anaphylaxis

Anaphylaxis is a serious and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction.

Possible symptoms include:

- Difficulty breathing.
- Wheezing or persistent coughing.
- Swelling of the tongue or throat.

- Difficulty swallowing or speaking.
- Hoarse voice.
- Dizziness.
- Collapse.
- Becoming pale, floppy or unresponsive.
- Other rapidly developing symptoms affecting different parts of the body.

If anaphylaxis is suspected:

ACT IMMEDIATELY.

1. Follow the child's Allergy Action Plan/IHP.
2. Administer their adrenaline auto-injector where indicated.
3. Call 999 and state that the child is experiencing anaphylaxis.
4. Follow the emergency operator's instructions.
5. Administer a second adrenaline device if required and available, in accordance with emergency guidance.
6. Ensure the child receives emergency medical attention.
7. Contact the child's parent/carer.
8. Record the incident.
9. Review the circumstances and identify any lessons.

Emergency treatment must not be delayed while waiting for a parent/carer.

Educational Visits and Trips

Children with allergies must be supported to participate safely in educational visits.

Before a visit, staff will:

- Consider allergy risks as part of the risk assessment.
- Identify relevant allergens.
- Ensure required medication accompanies the child.
- Ensure prescribed adrenaline is accessible.
- Ensure appropriate trained staff are present.
- Consider emergency medical arrangements.
- Make reasonable adjustments where necessary.

Children at risk of anaphylaxis should have their own prescribed adrenaline device with them and there should be staff trained to administer adrenaline in an emergency.

Serious Incidents and Near Misses

Bloomsbury Nursery School and Goodway Nursery School will record and review significant allergic reactions, suspected anaphylaxis and relevant near misses.

This includes situations where:

- A child is exposed to a known allergen.
- Medication was required.
- Medication was unavailable or difficult to access.
- An allergen was incorrectly identified.
- A potential exposure was identified before harm occurred.

Parents/carers and, where appropriate, healthcare professionals will be able to report incidents that may only become apparent after the child has returned home.

Bloomsbury Nursery School and Goodway Nursery School will use incidents and near misses as an opportunity to identify lessons and improve procedures.

Information Sharing and Confidentiality

Allergy and health information will be handled sensitively and securely.

Relevant information will be shared with staff who need it to keep the child safe.

Health information is special category data under UK GDPR and must therefore be handled appropriately.

Information will be shared with:

- Relevant practitioners.
- First aiders.
- Catering staff where appropriate.
- Staff supervising the child.
- Staff accompanying the child on visits.
- Emergency services where necessary.

Information will not be unnecessarily displayed or shared in a way that could embarrass or single out a child. – Information at Bloomsbury Nursery School will be displayed: In the kitchen and dining area and in the snack areas. Information at Goodway Nursery School will be displayed within the Kitchen areas within the classrooms and the dining room.

In the kitchen where food is prepared and the dining room. On display boards by snack area. Front cover to alert to each need and care plan behind with othe

Raising Awareness of the Policy

All staff will be made aware of this policy as part of their annual allergy awareness training.

The policy will be made accessible to parents/carers and staff.

This policy is published on the school's websites and made available in hard copy upon request.

Age-appropriate allergy awareness may also be promoted with children, while ensuring that individual children are not unnecessarily identified or singled out.

Roles and Responsibilities

Allergy Lead – Bloomsbury Nursery School – Tamar Cohan and Goodway Nursery School – Rachel Uredi.

The Allergy Lead is responsible for overseeing allergy safety across Bloomsbury Nursery School and Goodway Nursery School and ensuring this policy is implemented and reviewed.

Headteacher – Sally Davies

The manager/headteacher is responsible for ensuring appropriate resources, training and procedures are in place.

All Staff

All staff are responsible for:

- Understanding this policy.
- Knowing which children have known allergies.
- Following individual plans.
- Reducing allergen exposure.
- Knowing how to respond to an emergency.
- Reporting incidents and near misses.

Parents/Carers

Parents/carers are responsible for:

- Providing accurate allergy information.
- Providing prescribed medication.
- Providing updated Allergy Action Plans where applicable.
- Informing Bloomsbury Nursery School and Goodway Nursery School of changes.
- Ensuring medication is replaced before it expires.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed at least annually.

It will also be reviewed following:

- A serious allergic reaction.

- Anaphylaxis.
- A significant near miss.
- Changes to a child's allergy or treatment.
- Changes to relevant legislation or statutory guidance.
- Changes to the setting's procedures.

Reviews will consider incidents and near misses and identify lessons that could further improve allergy safety.

Policy review date: Sept 2027 or as above

Signed: *S.Davies*

Role: Head Teacher

Date: 1st Sept 2026

Useful Emergency Reminder

SUSPECT ANAPHYLAXIS?

ACT IMMEDIATELY.

Follow the child's emergency plan → administer adrenaline where prescribed and indicated → call 999 → follow emergency instructions → inform parents/carers → record and review the incident.

Never delay emergency treatment while waiting for a parent/carers to arrive.