

ALLERGY SAFETY

Parent and Carer information



This handbook explains how Avondale keeps pupils with allergies safe, and what we ask of you as a family. It sits alongside our full Allergy Safety Policy, available on the school website. Any Questions or concerns please contact the school office 01254 70339 or office@avondale.blackburn.sch.uk

OUR APPROACH

■ OUR PROMISE

We take every allergy seriously. We minimise foreseeable exposure to known allergens, respond immediately to suspected anaphylaxis, and make sure every pupil with an allergy is safe, included and able to take a full part in school life — meals, trips, clubs and everything in between.

IF YOUR CHILD HAS A KNOWN ALLERGY

Keeping your child safe works best as a partnership. Here's how the responsibility splits.

✓ WHAT WE ASK OF YOU

- ✓ Tell us as soon as possible — before your child starts, or as soon as a diagnosis is made.
- ✓ Provide an up-to-date allergy action plan from your GP or allergy clinic.
- ✓ Provide two in-date adrenaline auto-injectors, if prescribed, plus any other medication.
- ✓ Let us know straight away if anything changes — a new allergy, a changed dose, a review appointment.
- ✓ Review your child's Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) with us at least once a year.

✓ WHAT WE PROVIDE

- ✓ A named Allergy Safety Lead and a clear Individual Healthcare Plan for your child.
- ✓ Annual training for all staff who work with your child, including catering and supply staff.
- ✓ Spare adrenaline devices on site, always within five minutes of your child.
- ✓ Safe meal arrangements, agreed with you and our catering team.
- ✓ Full inclusion in lessons, meals, trips and clubs — with planning, not exclusion.

IF YOUR CHILD DOESN'T HAVE A KNOWN ALLERGY

- ✓ A first allergic reaction can happen at school, even with no previous history — so our precautions apply to every pupil, every day.
- ✓ No trading, sharing or swapping food, drinks, utensils or containers between pupils.
- ✓ All staff who work with your child receive annual allergy-awareness and emergency-response training.
- ✓ Please tell us about any allergy, however mild, so we can keep our records accurate.

MEALS AND FOOD AT SCHOOL

- ✓ Our school kitchen provides clear allergen information for every meal and works with us to plan safe options.
- ✓ We use at least two identification checks at every meal service — never memory or a single glance.
- ✓ Packed lunches and drinks should be named, and we'll let you know if we ask you to avoid particular foods.
- ✓ For birthdays, rewards and celebrations, please check with your child's teacher before sending in homemade or unlabelled food.

IN AN EMERGENCY

WHAT TO EXPECT

- ✓ Our staff are trained to recognise the signs of a serious allergic reaction and act immediately.
- ✓ If in doubt, we treat it as an emergency — adrenaline is given without waiting to reach you first.
- ✓ We call 999 straight away and stay with your child throughout.
- ✓ We contact you as soon as we can, and will always let you know what happened.
- ✓ Following anaphylaxis, your child will always be taken to hospital for assessment, even if they seem to recover quickly.

TRIPS, CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Every trip involving a pupil with allergy has its own risk assessment before it's approved.
- ✓ Your child's medication travels with them, and a trained adult knows how to use it.
- ✓ Your child won't be excluded from a trip or club because of their allergy.
- ✓ You won't be asked to attend a trip solely because of your child's allergy, unless it's genuinely necessary.

KEEPING THINGS UP TO DATE

- ✓ Tell us as soon as you know about a new or changed allergy — don't wait for the next parents' evening.
- ✓ Send in an updated action plan and replacement medication as soon as your GP or clinic issues one.
- ✓ Check your child's adrenaline devices haven't expired, and let us know if you're waiting on a repeat prescription.
- ✓ Let us know before a trip or residential if anything about your child's allergy has changed.