

St Ambrose Barlow RC High School & Sixth Form College

A National Teaching School
A National School of Creativity

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Anaphylaxis Policy

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Draft to be ratified by Governors

ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

The school recognises that allergic shock (anaphylaxis) is a serious condition that may affect a number of pupils at the school and recognises the responsibility it has in dealing with children's allergies appropriately.

- All pupils with anaphylaxis will have an Individual Health Care Plan
- All relevant staff will have an understanding of what it means to be allergic whether it be a reaction of the skin, airborne, contact, ingestion, or injection. They will be able to recognise and respond to a child who may be having an anaphylactic reaction including the administering of emergency adrenaline (epi-pen). Staff will receive regular training and updates by the school health team to ensure they have a clear understanding of what to do in the event of anaphylactic shock.
- The school will hold an epi-pen for those children who are prescribed it and also other anti histamine medicines in either tablet or syrup form to respond to more minor reactions.
- All medications will be labelled and stored appropriately in the school office. Each child will carry an epi-pen in their school bag.
- Relevant staff will be informed of those children who have this condition. A folder containing all necessary information on each individual will be given to Heads of Department and Pupil Progress Co-ordinator each year.
- The catering department will be made aware of children who have allergies
- The school will work in partnership with all parties to ensure the policy is implemented.

Allergic Reaction

An allergy is a hypersensitive reaction to intrinsically harmless antigens (substances) usually proteins which causes the formation of an antibody which specifically reacts with it. In susceptible individuals the reaction may develop within seconds or minutes of contact with the trigger factor. The exposure may result in a severe allergic reaction that can be life threatening.

In an anaphylactic reaction chemicals are released into the blood stream that widen the blood vessels and narrow the air passages. Blood pressure falls and breathing becomes impaired. The throat and tongue can swell thus increasing the risk of hypoxia (lack of oxygen in the blood).

Triggers

- Skin or airborne contact with particular materials
- Injection of a specific drug
- Insect bit
- Ingestion of certain foods e.g. nuts, fish and dairy products

Recognition

- Anxiety
- Widespread blotchy skin
- Swelling of the tongue and throat
- Puffiness around the eyes
- Impaired breathing

Serious Symptoms

- Cold clammy skin
- Blue-grey tinge around lips
- Weakness/dizziness
- Rapid shallow breathing

Progress Further

- Restlessness
- Aggressiveness
- Gasping for air
- Unconsciousness

Treatment

- Call or send for first aider who has completed anaphylaxis training
- Ask member of staff to obtain pupil's emergency bag from school office
- Administer antihistamine tablet/syrup as prescribed (if wheezy blue inhaler if prescribed)
- When a pupil recovers allow time to rest and contact parents
- If serious symptoms appears call **999**, request an ambulance and administer **adrenaline via the epi-pen immediately if prescribed**
- Stay with pupil, note the time epi-pen was given and reassure pupil
- Give as much detail to the ambulance crew on arrival regarding the allergic reaction what medicine you have given
- Give used epi-pen and care plan to ambulance crew