

Emergency Procedures for Anaphylaxis and Asthma



Reviewed by Jodie Cooper

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1. Statement of Intent

Priorslee Academy is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all pupils, staff and visitors. We recognise that allergies, anaphylaxis and asthma can present serious and potentially life-threatening medical emergencies. The school will take all reasonable steps to minimise risks, support pupils with medical needs and ensure prompt and effective emergency responses.

This policy has been developed in accordance with:

- Department for Education guidance on supporting pupils with medical conditions.
- Department of Health guidance on emergency asthma inhalers.
- Department of Health guidance on adrenaline auto-injectors in schools.
- The Equality Act 2010.
- Benedict's Law allergy safety requirements introduced for schools in England from September 2026. [[gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)], [allergyschool.org.uk], [anaphylaxis.org.uk]

2. Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- Safeguard pupils with allergies and asthma.
- Ensure all staff understand their responsibilities.
- Reduce the risk of exposure to known allergens.
- Promote inclusion in all aspects of school life.
- Ensure emergency medication is available and accessible.
- Provide clear emergency procedures.
- Meet statutory requirements under current DfE guidance and Benedict's Law. [[gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)], [allergyschool.org.uk]

3. Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Board

The Governing Board will:

- Ensure legal compliance.
- Review this policy annually.
- Ensure suitable training arrangements are in place.

Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- Ensure effective implementation of this policy.
- Ensure sufficient trained staff are available.
- Monitor compliance.
- Ensure emergency medication is maintained.

Allergy and Asthma Lead

The named lead will:

- Maintain the allergy and asthma register.
- Coordinate training.
- Review Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Monitor incidents and near misses.
- Liaise with parents and healthcare professionals.
- Ensure expiry dates of emergency medication are checked.

Staff

All staff must:

- Know how to recognise an asthma attack.
- Know how to recognise anaphylaxis.
- Attend annual training.
- Follow emergency procedures.
- Report incidents and near misses.

Parents and Carers

Parents must:

- Inform the school of medical conditions.
- Provide prescribed medication.
- Ensure medication remains in date.
- Provide updated action plans where appropriate.

4. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

The school will maintain Individual Healthcare Plans for pupils with:

- Severe allergies
- Anaphylaxis risk
- Asthma requiring regular medication
- Other significant medical conditions

Plans will be reviewed:

- Annually
- Following any emergency incident
- Following changes to medical advice

5. Prevention and Risk Management

The school will:

- Maintain an allergy and asthma register.
- Communicate relevant information to staff.
- Promote handwashing before and after eating.
- Risk assess educational visits.
- Ensure breakfast club, wraparound care and after-school activities follow this policy.
- Work closely with catering providers regarding allergens.
- Prohibit food sharing.

The school cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment but will take reasonable measures to reduce risks.

[\[allergyschool.org.uk\]](http://allergyschool.org.uk), [\[gov.uk\]](http://gov.uk)

6. Emergency Medication

Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs)

The school will maintain spare in-date AAIs in accordance with government guidance and Benedict's Law requirements.

[\[gov.uk\]](http://gov.uk), [\[anaphylaxis.org.uk\]](http://anaphylaxis.org.uk)

AAIs will:

- Be stored securely but not locked away.
- Be clearly labelled.
- Be accessible within five minutes.
- Be checked monthly for expiry dates.

A spare AAI may be administered during a suspected anaphylactic reaction where required in an emergency.

[\[anaphylaxis.org.uk\]](http://anaphylaxis.org.uk), [\[gov.uk\]](http://gov.uk)

Emergency Salbutamol Inhalers

The school will maintain emergency salbutamol inhalers and spacers.

These may be used for pupils:

- Diagnosed with asthma; or
- Prescribed a reliever inhaler; and
- Whose parents have provided consent.

Emergency inhalers will be:

- Stored in accessible locations.
 - Checked regularly.
- Available for educational visits where appropriate

7. Emergency Procedure for Anaphylaxis

Recognition of Anaphylaxis

Symptoms may include:

- Difficulty breathing
- Wheezing
- Persistent cough
- Swollen tongue or throat
- Difficulty swallowing
- Hoarse voice
- Sudden collapse
- Loss of consciousness

If anaphylaxis is suspected:

STEP 1

Administer the AAI IMMEDIATELY

Do not wait.

Do not delay administration whilst contacting parents or emergency services.

STEP 2

Call 999

State:

"Anaphylaxis. Adrenaline has been given."

STEP 3

Send a member of staff to:

- Collect additional medication.
- Meet ambulance crews.
- Inform senior leaders.

STEP 4

Contact parents/carers.

STEP 5

Monitor continuously.

If symptoms persist or worsen and a further AAI is available, administer according to training and healthcare plans.

STEP 6

Ensure hospital assessment.

Any person receiving adrenaline must be medically assessed even if symptoms improve.

ANAPHYLAXIS FLOWCHART

Suspected Anaphylaxis



Give Adrenaline Auto-Injector Immediately



Call 999



Contact Parents



Monitor Continuously



Second AAI if Required



Hospital Assessment

8. Emergency Procedure for Asthma

Recognition of an Asthma Attack

Symptoms may include:

- Coughing
- Wheezing
- Breathlessness
- Tight chest
- Difficulty speaking
- Distress or panic

Serious symptoms may include:

- Exhaustion
- Blue lips
- Inability to speak
- Reduced consciousness

STEP 1

Sit the pupil upright and remain calm.
Do not allow them to lie down.

STEP 2

Administer reliever inhaler through a spacer.

Give:

- One puff at a time.
- Encourage four breaths after each puff.
- Up to ten puffs may be given.

STEP 3

Monitor closely.

If symptoms improve:

- Continue observation.
- Inform parents.

STEP 4

Call 999 immediately if:

- Symptoms do not improve.
- The child cannot speak.
- The child is exhausted.
- The child deteriorates at any stage.
- You are concerned about their condition.

STEP 5

Continue administering:

One puff every 30-60 seconds up to ten puffs whilst waiting for emergency services.

ASTHMA FLOWCHART
Suspected Asthma Attack

↓
Sit Upright

↓
Administer Reliever Inhaler

↓
Monitor Response

↓
Improving?

☒ **Yes** → **Continue Monitoring and Inform Parents**

☒ **No** → **Call 999**

↓
Continue Inhaler Use Whilst Awaiting Ambulance

9. Training

All staff will receive annual training covering:

- Allergy awareness
- Anaphylaxis recognition
- Use of adrenaline auto-injectors
- Asthma awareness
- Use of emergency salbutamol inhalers
- Emergency procedures
- Incident reporting

New staff will receive training as part of their induction. [\[gov.uk\]](https://www.gov.uk), [\[allergyschool.org.uk\]](https://allergyschool.org.uk)

10. Recording, Reporting and Near Misses

The school will record:

- Allergic reactions
- Anaphylaxis incidents
- Asthma attacks
- Administration of medication
- Near misses involving allergens

All incidents will be reviewed to identify lessons learned and improve future practice.
[\[allergyschool.org.uk\]](https://allergyschool.org.uk)

Useful Resources

Department for Education

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3>

Department of Health

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/using-emergency-adrenaline-auto-injectors-in-schools>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/emergency-asthma-inhalers-for-use-in-schools>

NHS

- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/anaphylaxis/>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/asthma/>

Allergy Organisations

- [Anaphylaxis UK](https://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk)
- [Allergy School](https://allergyschool.org.uk)

Benedict's Law Information

- [Anaphylaxis UK: Benedict's Law Guidance](https://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk) [\[anaphylaxis.org.uk\]](https://anaphylaxis.org.uk)

This version would be suitable for governors, website publication, staff training, and inspection purposes and reflects the current Benedict's Law expectations for schools alongside existing DfE and NHS guidance. [\[gov.uk\]](https://www.gov.uk), [\[allergyschool.org.uk\]](https://allergyschool.org.uk), [\[anaphylaxis.org.uk\]](https://anaphylaxis.org.uk)