



Barrowby Church of England Primary School

Allergens Policy

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Barrowby CE Primary School recognises that although most food intolerances produce symptoms that are uncomfortable, some individuals may suffer severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis), which can be life-threatening.
- 1.2 A number of pupils in the school have severe or moderate allergies to food; amongst the most common is nut allergy. Barrowby CE Primary School recognises its duty under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, the Equality Act 2010, and the expectations highlighted in emerging statutory guidance often referred to as “Benedict’s Law”, to provide a safe and inclusive environment for all pupils.
- 1.3 The school aims, as far as is reasonably practicable, to ensure that foods provided, brought into, or produced within the school do not contain nuts or other high-risk allergens, and that robust risk management procedures are in place to protect pupils with allergies.

2 Responsibility

- 2.1 The school is committed to pupil safety and, in line with the DfE guidance: Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions at School and the principles reinforced within Benedict’s Law, has established this policy to reduce the risk of allergy-related incidents.
- 2.2 Parents are required to inform the school of any known food allergies or medical conditions prior to admission via the Permissions and Information form. This supports the statutory expectation for clear communication of medical needs between families and schools.
- 2.3 Parents must update the school immediately if any allergy is diagnosed during their child’s time at school, ensuring compliance with the ongoing duty of care and risk assessment expectations reflected in current guidance.
- 2.4 Pupils with diagnosed allergies requiring medication will have an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP), in line with DfE statutory guidance.
These plans are:
 - reviewed at least annually;
 - reviewed sooner if circumstances change;This reflects the strengthened expectation under Benedict’s Law for dynamic and responsive care planning.
- 2.5 Medical information lists are created and distributed to all relevant staff to ensure awareness and preparedness.

- 2.6 'Pupils With Allergy' information is accessible to staff in key locations (medical room and wraparound care), supporting accessibility of critical information as recommended in safeguarding and medical risk guidance.
- 2.7 The school also maintains its own supply of emergency adrenaline auto-injectors (EpiPens) for use in the event of an anaphylactic reaction. These are securely stored and readily accessible, in the Medical Room, with staff trained in their correct administration. This ensures that, in addition to pupils' prescribed medication, prompt treatment can be provided in an emergency, even if a child's own EpiPen is unavailable or has been administered already. The school ensures staff receive regular training to:
- recognise symptoms of allergic reactions
 - administer emergency medication (e.g. EpiPen)
- 2.8 All parents are asked not to send nuts or nut-containing products into school. This also applies to any other foods that may pose a known, significant risk to individual pupils, reflecting a shared responsibility approach emphasised in current safeguarding guidance.
- 2.9 Parents should send:
- fruit or vegetable snacks, or
 - clearly labelled shop-bought products

This supports accurate allergen identification, a key principle reinforced in recent food safety and school duty-of-care expectations.

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3. Food Provision in School

- 3.1 Farm Kitchen (the school meals provider) operates nut-free kitchens; however, they cannot guarantee that food is completely free from traces of nuts due to manufacturing processes.
- 3.2 Farm Kitchen provides allergen information on their website for parents and carers, supporting transparent communication, as expected in current statutory guidance.
- 3.3 Farm Kitchen are fully informed of known allergies within the school to enable safe preparation and provision.
- 3.4 While the school makes every reasonable effort to minimise allergen risks, it cannot guarantee a completely allergen-free environment, particularly where pupils bring packed lunches from home.
This reflects the principle of "reasonable practicability" referenced in UK health and safety legislation.
- 3.5 For residential visits, allergy information is shared in advance with providers, in line with:
- Educational Visits guidance

- enhanced expectations under Benedict's Law for forward planning and risk mitigation.
- 3.6 Before any food-related activity (including tasting), teachers must check all ingredients against known allergies for pupils in the class. This reflects proactive risk assessment requirements.
- 3.7 FoBS (Friends of Barrowby School) and all visitors are requested not to bring nut products into school, reinforcing whole-community responsibility for safety.
- 3.8 Barrowby CE Primary School acknowledges that, despite all precautions, it cannot guarantee an environment completely free of allergens. However, in accordance with statutory duties and the strengthened expectations reflected in Benedict's Law, the school commits to:
- minimising risks as far as reasonably possible;
 - maintaining robust procedures;
 - ensuring rapid and appropriate response to incidents.

This ensures a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for all members of the school family.

8 Allergens Policy Review

This policy is reviewed by the Head teacher, staff and Governors in accordance with Barrowby School's Policy and Review Cycle for approval by the Full Governing Body, annually.

Last reviewed: June 2026

Next review: June 2027