

**Grand Avenue Primary and Nursery School  
A Policy for Pupils with Severe Allergic Reaction**

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## **Introduction**

Anaphylactic shock can result from a severe allergic reaction. It is commonly caused by allergies to various foods (in particular nuts), insect bites or stings. The main symptom is breathing difficulties which can lead to life-threatening situation. First Aid has to be given immediately and this can involve giving an adrenalin injection. The treatment involves the immediate administration of adrenaline via an automatic 'Epipen'. The use of Epipen is suitable for people with little or no previous knowledge of giving injections. Pupils are usually aware of the foods which they must avoid and, as they grow older, learn to administer their own medication in the event of an emergency.

The Head Teacher and Governing Body will take all reasonable steps to ensure the health and safety of affected pupils in school by, for example increasing parents awareness so that other pupils can be discouraged from bringing nuts into the school environment.

The arrangements set out below are intended to assist pupils, their parents and the school, in achieving the least possible disruption to their education, but also to make appropriate provision for their medical needs

## **Responsibilities of the School**

The Head Teacher will arrange for teachers and other school staff to be briefed regularly about the condition and about other arrangements contained in this document. Staff should familiarise themselves with these guidelines. Regular training will be provided

The school staff will take all reasonable steps to ensure that affected pupils do not eat any food items unless they have been prepared/approved by their parents.

If there are any plans which mean affected pupils leave the school site, prior discussions will be held between the school and the parents in order to agree appropriate provision and safe handling of medication. At least one member of the staff who has received training in the administration of the medication should be present on school trips or residential visits.

Whenever the planned curriculum involves cookery or experimentation with food items, prior discussions will be held between the school and parents to agree measures and suitable alternatives. A letter will be sent home informing parents of the planned lesson and food involved (this letter is the responsibility of the teacher taking the lesson).

The school will hold appropriate medication clearly marked for use by designated school staff and showing an expiry date. One Epipen should be stored in a safe place, which is easily accessible to staff.

The children's individual Healthcare Plans are kept in the Medical Room and in the classrooms.

The school will inform and regularly remind parents that the school is a nut free zone. Should food containing nuts be found in a child's lunchbox a letter will be sent home to the parents reminding them of our policy.

## **Responsibilities of Parents**

Parents are required to complete two documents on admission to school

1-Healthcare plan – with details of the allergy including signs and symptoms

2-Medication Agreement- giving the school permission to administer medication the child

Parents will be asked to remind their children regularly of the need to refuse any food items which might be offered by other pupils. Parents will be also asked to provide:

- a suitable packed lunch
- suitable food for special occasions eg Christmas, history days

Parents need to ensure that sufficient medication – usually two Epipens are always available for use in school which is accompanied by a GP's prescription. This includes checking expiry dates.

Parents are responsible for replacing any used medication as soon as possible.

Parents will also provide a recent photograph of their child.

## **Allergic reaction**

### Symptoms

The signs of an impending allergic response usually occur over minutes, rather than seconds or hours. The physical features suggesting a severe allergic response or a developing response include the following:

- An urticarial rash (nettle rash)
- Itching and sneezing
- Swelling of the face – eyes, lips and tongue
- Difficulty swallowing or breathing with frequent cough or wheeze
- Flushing of the face
- Feeling faint

## **Allergic Reaction – Procedures**

In the event of a pupil showing any physical symptoms for which there is no obvious explanation, or if they suddenly appear unwell for no apparent reason, if there is time they should be taken to the school office immediately and the following plan put into action:

A member of staff will contact the following in direct order of priority

- Ambulance
- Parent or other family member as authorised

Adrenaline by the Epipen will then be administered. Two members of staff will be required one to administer the Epipen and one to support and reassure the child. The pupil should be lying down in the most comfortable position.

The Epipen will be given in the upper outer aspect of the thigh with the Epipen vertical to the thigh, as indicated at training session.

If there is no improvement in 10minutes, then the EpiPen will be repeated. The pupil will be carefully observed noting that he/she can breathe easily. If the pupil's condition deteriorates resuscitation (CPR) may be necessary.

On the arrival of the Ambulance crew the person in charge will hand over the medication used. A member of staff will need to accompany the pupil to hospital in the absence of a family member

## **EpiPen training**

Staff who have agreed to administer the EpiPen must attend a training session. This will include a description of the symptoms of anaphylaxis and the procedure to follow in the event of an emergency. Staff will be offered training on a regular basis.

EpiPen training sessions are arranged by the school and led by the School Nurse

EpiPen training may also be given during First Aid courses

## **Staff Indemnity**

The Royal Borough of Kingston provides staff indemnity for any school staff who agree to administer medication to a pupil in school given the full agreement of the parents and school.

The Council fully indemnifies its staff against claims for alleged negligence, providing they are acting within the scope of their employment, have been provided with adequate training and are following the agreed guidelines as outlined in this policy. For purposes of indemnity, the administration of medicines falls within this definition and hence staff can be reassured about the protection their employer provides. The indemnity would cover the legal liability that might arise where an incorrect dose is inadvertently given or where, by a member of staff's negligence the medication is overlooked or incorrectly administered. Legal action would always be leveled against the Royal Borough of Kingston, not individual members of staff.

## **Conclusion**

It is our policy to treat any severe allergic reaction swiftly and competently. In accordance with this policy, through various strategies, we endeavor to minimise the risk of potential allergic reactions for all children.