

**St Joseph’s Primary School**

**Allergy Policy**

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| **Article 24** |
| Every child has the right to the best possible health. |

***An allergy is the response of the body’s immune system to normally harmless substances, such as pollens, foods and house dust mite. Whilst in most people these substances (allergens) pose no problem, in allergic individuals their immune system identifies them as a ‘threat’ and produces an inappropriate response.***

[www.allergyuk.org](http://www.allergyuk.org)

**Allergies in St Joseph’s Primary School**

**Medical Information**

All medical information is updated on a yearly basis through our annual data checks. Parents/carers have the responsibility of updating the school office of any changes. Office staff check dates on medication. In the event of medication nearing the end of its usage date the school office contacts parents to advise them. All medication is collected once per year at the start of the school year. All teachers have an overview of medical information which is stored on our shared drive and click and go. We have an allergy overview of all pupils which is given to staff. In addition, there are procedural flowcharts in the school office for children extreme allergic reactions. Class teachers also have a copy of this flowchart.

**Catering**

We provide a safe environment for all pupils by ensuring we are a nut free school. Catering staff are given a list of children’s names indicating all allergies. This information is available to all catering staff, located in an allergy folder in the catering office. A ‘Pre-Service Allergen Checker Tool’ sheet is completed on a daily basis. Individual children are then identified from this list and their order is checked against the Checker Tool sheet. Children with allergies are given a purple lunch band. There are nominated Allergy Champions in our catering team and they are identified through wearing a matching purple band. We include a statement in our newsletters reminding parents that we are a ‘Nut Free’ school.

**EpiPens**

Staff are trained on use of EpiPen. In addition all staff are familiar with [www.allergyuk.org](http://www.allergyuk.org) which offers support and appropriate guidance. Parents are asked to provide 2 EpiPens to allow for 1 EpiPen to be stored in the school office and the additional EpiPen to be kept with the class. Second EpiPen is stored in a Ziploc bag and stored in the teacher’s drawer in the class. This bag will be taken whenever the class go to other areas of the school.

**Anaphylaxis**

**Mild-moderate allergic reaction:**

* Swollen lips, face or eyes Itchy / tingling mouth
* Hives or itchy skin rash
* Abdominal pain or vomiting
* Sudden change in behaviour

**Action:**

* Stay with the child, call for help if necessary
* Locate EpiPen
* Give antihistamine:
* Phone parent/emergency contact

**Signs of ANAPHYLAXIS**

Anaphylaxis may occur *without* skin symptoms: **ALWAYS** consider anaphylaxis in pupil with known food allergy who has **SUDDEN BREATHING DIFFICULTY.**



**Procedure for Anaphylaxis**

 **Step 1**  – Lie child flat

 **Step 2**  – Administer Epipen

 **Step 3**  – Call for help on radio

 **Step 1**  – Dial 999