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Anton County Junior School

Allergy Safety Policy

Date created: Autumn 2026	Head Teacher: Kerri Culver
Review period: Annual	Next due for review: Autumn 2027
Chair of Governors: Anna Hall	

Anton Junior School Vision and Values

We want the children of Anton Juniors to **REACH** for their ambitions in life through being Resilient, Empowered, Aspirational, Curious and Honourable.

Resilient

Being resilient means our children are confident to take risks and challenges in their learning with the ability to overcome barriers they may face.

Empowered

Being empowered means our children have more confidence when making choices in their learning and when in social situations.

Aspirational

Being aspirational means our children have a strong desire for success and achievement.

Curious

Being curious means our children have a thirst for learning new skills and knowledge in different ways throughout the entire Anton curriculum.

Honourable

Being honourable means our children have respect, honesty and fairness when becoming active members of their school and wider community.

At Anton Junior School, we set high expectations for our children and are aspirational for them in relation to all aspects of their learning and conduct. Within our Anton values, we promote independence and growth mindset; we expect children to embrace the opportunities provided for them to grow emotionally and socially to become the very best version of themselves.



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Policy Statement

At Anton Junior School, we recognise that allergies can be life-threatening and that effective allergy management is a whole-school responsibility.

We are committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for children with allergies, enabling them to participate fully in school life alongside their peers.

This policy has been developed in accordance with the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, the Department for Education's statutory guidance Allergy Safety in Schools and relevant Hampshire guidance provided through Hampshire Inspection and Advisory Service (HIAS).

The school will take all reasonable and proportionate steps to:

- identify children and adults with allergies;
- reduce the risk of exposure to known allergens;
- ensure appropriate Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) and Allergy Action Plans are in place;
- ensure prescribed emergency medication is immediately accessible;
- maintain appropriate spare adrenaline devices;
- ensure staff receive annual allergy awareness and emergency response training;
- respond rapidly and appropriately to allergic reactions and anaphylaxis;
- support the emotional wellbeing and inclusion of children with allergies;
- record, report and learn from allergy incidents and near misses.

We recognise that no school can completely eliminate the risk of an allergic reaction. Our approach is therefore based on risk reduction, preparedness, rapid response and continuous improvement.

Legal and Guidance Framework

This policy should be read alongside:

- Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026;
- Department for Education: Allergy Safety in Schools – Statutory Guidance, July 2026;
- Department for Education: Supporting Children with Medical Conditions at School;
- Food Information Regulations 2014;
- Benedict's Law;
- Equality Act 2010;
- Hampshire County Council / HIAS guidance relating to supporting children and young people with medical conditions;
- First Aid Policy;



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- Administering Medication Policy;
- Safeguarding Policy;
- Health and Safety Policy.

The school will have regard to current statutory guidance and will update this policy when national or local guidance changes.

Roles and Responsibility

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for ensuring that the school has effective arrangements for allergy safety.

A named member of the Senior Leadership Team will have designated responsibility for allergy safety.

Designated Senior Leader for Allergy Safety: Richard Gluck

The designated senior leader will:

- oversee implementation of this policy;
- maintain the school's allergy register;
- ensure Individual Healthcare Plans are reviewed;
- coordinate allergy awareness and emergency response training;
- oversee the storage and checking of emergency medication;
- ensure appropriate arrangements are in place for school trips and activities;
- liaise with parents/carers and relevant healthcare professionals;
- work with the school's catering provider;
- ensure allergy incidents and near misses are recorded and reviewed;
- ensure learning from incidents informs future practice;
- report relevant concerns to the Headteacher and Governing Body;
- support the annual review of this policy with the Headteacher.

Responsibility for allergy safety will not rest solely with the school's catering provider.

All members of staff have a responsibility to follow this policy and to take reasonable steps to protect children with known allergies.



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Creating a Positive Allergy-Safe Culture

Anton Junior School will promote a culture in which allergies are understood, taken seriously and managed sensitively.

We will ensure that children with allergies:

- are not unnecessarily excluded from activities;
- are not isolated from their peers because of their allergy;
- are able to participate fully in school trips, clubs, sport and enrichment activities;
- are treated with dignity and respect;
- are supported to develop age-appropriate independence in managing their allergy;
- are not made to feel responsible for the safety of others;
- are protected from bullying or negative comments relating to their allergy.

Staff will be alert to the emotional and psychological impact of allergy. Any concerns about anxiety, stigma or bullying will be addressed through the school's normal pastoral, safeguarding and behaviour systems in line with our school policies.

Staff Allergy Awareness and Emergency Response Training

All staff who are present when children are on site will receive allergy awareness and emergency response training at least annually.

This includes, where applicable, teachers, teaching assistants, lunchtime staff, administrative staff, pastoral staff, first aiders, breakfast and after-school club staff, catering staff, supply teachers, agency staff and regular volunteers.

New staff will receive appropriate allergy information as part of their induction.

Training will ensure that staff understand:

- what an allergy is;
- the difference between allergy, intolerance and coeliac disease;
- common allergic triggers;
- how allergic reactions can occur;
- common symptoms of allergic reactions;
- the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis;
- the importance of rapid treatment;
- how to access emergency medication;
- how to administer adrenaline using an appropriate device;



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- when to call 999;
- how to follow an Allergy Action Plan;
- how to access information about children with known allergies;
- how to minimise exposure to known allergens;
- the school's allergy safety procedures;
- how to report incidents and near misses;
- the potential impact of allergy on children's wellbeing.

Training records will be maintained by the school and kept electronically with the School Business Manager (SBM).

Identifying Children with Allergies

Parents/carers will be asked to provide information about allergies when a child joins the school and whenever a new allergy is diagnosed.

Information will include, where applicable:

- the allergen(s);
- the nature and severity of the allergy;
- known symptoms;
- prescribed medication;
- adrenaline auto-injector requirements;
- Allergy Action Plan;
- Asthma Action Plan where relevant;
- emergency contacts and arrangements;
- dietary requirements;
- reasonable adjustments required;
- arrangements required for trips, PE, clubs and other activities.

The school will maintain a confidential record of children with known allergies. Relevant information will be shared with staff who need to know in order to keep the child safe. Their photo will be displayed in the staff room, away from a window for confidentiality.

Where appropriate, information will be available to staff in areas where food or other allergens may be present, while being kept securely and accessed only by appropriate staff. This will include in the school kitchen ensuring Chartwells staff are fully informed.



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Individual Healthcare Plans

An Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) will be considered where a child's allergy has a functional impact on them at school, places them at risk of harm, and requires arrangements which are additional to or different from those made generally for children.

An IHP may include:

- known allergens;
- measures to minimise exposure;
- prescribed medication;
- emergency procedures;
- arrangements for PE and sport;
- school trips;
- lunchtime arrangements;
- classroom activities;
- reasonable adjustments;
- responsibilities of staff;
- arrangements for medication.

Where a healthcare professional has provided an Allergy Action Plan, this will be attached to or referenced within the IHP. If additional training is required, the school and healthcare professional will ensure this is completed in a timely manner.

IHPs will be reviewed at least annually and sooner where the child's allergy or medication changes, new medical advice is received, there is an allergic reaction or near miss, the child's circumstances change, or a move of class/phase affects arrangements.

Prescribed Adrenaline Auto-Injectors

Children prescribed adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) must have rapid access to their prescribed medication at all times.

Medication must be accessible during lessons, break and lunchtime, PE, sports activities, playground activities, school clubs, educational visits and residential visits. These will be kept in the easy access classroom medical grab bags.

Adrenaline should be administered as soon as possible in suspected anaphylaxis. The school should ensure that medication can be accessed within approximately five minutes.



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Prescribed medication will:

- be stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions;
- be kept at the appropriate temperature;
- not be refrigerated unless specifically required;
- not be exposed to direct sunlight or excessive heat;
- not be locked away where access could be delayed;
- be clearly identified;
- be checked regularly for expiry and condition.

Parents/carers will be responsible for ensuring that prescribed medication supplied to the school remains in date and is replaced when required.

The school will maintain a record of prescribed adrenaline devices held on site.

Spare Adrenaline Auto-Injectors

In accordance with statutory guidance, the school will maintain an appropriate supply of spare adrenaline devices for emergency use.

Spare devices will:

- be stored in pairs;
- be clearly labelled as emergency/spare devices;
- be readily accessible;
- not be locked away;
- be available within approximately five minutes of any location in which children may be present;
- be stored according to the manufacturer's instructions;
- be checked regularly for expiry and condition;
- be replaced promptly following use or expiry.

The school will determine appropriate locations based on the size and layout of the school.

Spare AAI locations:

1. Medical Room situated at the school office
2. Medical Room situated at the school office
3. School trip medical bag
4. School trip medical bag



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The school will maintain an emergency anaphylaxis kit where appropriate. The kit may include spare adrenaline devices, emergency instructions, emergency contact information and relevant emergency medication.

Staff will know where emergency medication is located and how to access it.

Responding to Anaphylaxis

Anaphylaxis is a medical emergency. Staff must act immediately if a child is showing signs of anaphylaxis.

Symptoms may include difficulty breathing, wheezing, swelling of the lips, mouth, tongue or throat, difficulty speaking or swallowing, sudden hoarse voice, dizziness or collapse, pale or clammy appearance, persistent cough, widespread allergic symptoms, vomiting or abdominal symptoms where accompanied by other symptoms, or sudden deterioration in a child known to have a severe allergy.

A skin rash does not have to be present for anaphylaxis to occur.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

1. Recognise the possibility of anaphylaxis.
2. Administer adrenaline immediately where anaphylaxis is suspected, using the child's prescribed adrenaline device or the school's spare device where appropriate.
3. Call 999 and state clearly that the child is experiencing anaphylaxis / a severe allergic reaction.
4. Stay with the child. The child must not be left alone.
5. Follow the child's Allergy Action Plan and emergency medical advice.
6. If symptoms do not improve, or if advised by the Allergy Action Plan/emergency services, a second adrenaline device may be required.
7. Inform parents/carers as soon as practicable following the immediate emergency response.
8. Record the incident and review it in accordance with the school's incident procedures.

Reducing the Risk of Allergen Exposure

The school will take reasonable and proportionate steps to reduce the risk of exposure to known allergens.

This includes considering allergens arising from food, drinks, classroom activities, craft materials, science activities, cooking, musical activities, animals, plants, medicines and insect stings.

Staff planning activities will consider whether a child with a known allergy could be exposed to an allergen. Where a risk is identified, appropriate control measures will be implemented.



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Food Allergies

The school recognises that food is one of the most common causes of allergic reactions.

The school will work closely with parents/carers, children, catering providers, lunchtime staff, teachers and healthcare professionals where appropriate.

The school will ensure that relevant allergen information is available for food provided by the school or its catering provider.

The 14 regulated allergens will be managed in accordance with current food information legislation:

1. Cereals containing gluten
2. Crustaceans
3. Eggs
4. Fish
5. Peanuts
6. Soybeans
7. Milk
8. Nuts
9. Celery
10. Mustard
11. Sesame
12. Sulphur dioxide and sulphites
13. Lupin
14. Molluscs

The presence of allergens must be clearly communicated where required. Where food is pre-packed for direct sale, the requirements of Benedict's Law will be followed.

School Meals

Children with allergies will be supported to access school meals wherever reasonably possible in accordance to Chartwell's Policy.

Children with allergies will not be segregated from their peers at lunch times.



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The school and catering provider will use appropriate methods to identify children with allergies and ensure that they receive a safe meal. Where appropriate, at least two methods of identification/checking will be used, such as staff identification/checking, photographic information, secure allergy registers or appropriate child identifiers. At Anton Juniors we have the children's photos clearly displayed in the kitchen as well as the children producing an Orange Card when they collect their meal.

The school will work with families and the caterer to agree safe arrangements for each child. Menu changes will be communicated appropriately.

Food Brought into School

The school recognises that food may be brought into school by children, parents/carers, staff, visitors and external providers.

Parents/carers will be asked to follow the school's expectations regarding food brought into school.

Where food is used for classroom activities, staff must consider the ingredients and potential allergens before the activity takes place.

All food used for teaching, cooking, celebrations or enrichment activities should be clearly labelled where appropriate.

The school will not rely solely on a blanket "nut-free" approach as a substitute for robust allergy management and emergency procedures.

Packed Lunches

Parents/carers will be provided with clear information regarding packed lunches.

The school may request that particular allergens are not knowingly included in packed lunches where a specific child has a severe allergy and this is considered an appropriate risk-reduction measure.

However, the school recognises that a blanket ban cannot eliminate all risk. Our primary approach will remain awareness, risk reduction, safe food handling, appropriate supervision, clear communication and effective emergency procedures.



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Classroom Activities

Staff must consider allergy risks when planning cooking, baking, science experiments, art and craft, play materials, gardening, animal handling, food packaging, sensory activities and similar tasks.

Some materials may contain allergens, including certain glues, play dough, modelling materials, bird seed, food products, cosmetics or toiletries and craft materials.

Where an allergen presents a significant risk, an alternative resource or reasonable adjustment should be considered.

Educational Visits and Trips

Children with allergies must be enabled to participate fully in educational visits wherever reasonably possible.

A specific risk assessment will be completed where required.

For children at risk of anaphylaxis:

- prescribed adrenaline must accompany the child;
- appropriate spare emergency medication should be available where required;
- staff accompanying the child must know how to recognise anaphylaxis;
- appropriately trained staff must be present;
- emergency procedures must be understood;
- relevant medical information must be accessible;
- arrangements for food must be checked in advance;
- reasonable adjustments will be made where necessary.

The school will not exclude a child from a trip solely because they have an allergy where the risk can reasonably be managed.

PE and Sport

Children with allergies should be able to participate fully in PE and sporting activities.

Prescribed adrenaline medication must remain accessible.

Staff supervising PE and sport must know which children have relevant allergies, where emergency medication is located, how to summon help, how to administer emergency medication where trained, and how to respond to anaphylaxis.

Emergency medication must accompany children when activities take place away from the main school building.



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Staff and Visitors with Allergies

The school recognises that staff and visitors may also have allergies.

Where appropriate, the school will consider how allergy information can be gathered and how reasonable measures can be implemented.

Staff members with allergies should inform their line manager or appropriate school leader where their allergy may require emergency arrangements.

Visitors who are likely to be provided with food may be asked whether there are allergies that the school should be aware of.

Information Sharing and Confidentiality

Information about a child's allergy is sensitive health information.

The school will share information on a need-to-know basis to ensure the child's safety.

Relevant staff must have sufficient information to recognise the child, understand their allergy, reduce the risk of exposure, locate emergency medication, follow the child's Allergy Action Plan and respond appropriately in an emergency.

Information will be handled in accordance with UK GDPR, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the school's Data Protection Policy.

Communication with Parents and Carers

The school will maintain open communication with parents/carers of children with allergies.

Parents/carers are expected to:

- provide accurate information about their child's allergy;
- provide updated Allergy Action Plans;
- provide prescribed medication where required;
- replace medication before it expires;
- inform the school of changes to their child's allergy or treatment;
- work with the school to develop and review the child's IHP.

The school will communicate relevant changes to arrangements promptly.



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Children Developing a New Allergy

If a child develops symptoms suggestive of an allergy while at school, staff will respond appropriately to the symptoms and seek medical assistance where necessary.

Parents/carers will be informed.

Where an allergy is subsequently diagnosed, the school will work with the family to establish appropriate arrangements, including an IHP where required.

Until appropriate arrangements are in place, the school will take reasonable interim measures to reduce the risk of exposure.

Incidents and Near Misses

The school will record and review serious incidents and near misses involving allergies.

A near miss may include an event where the wrong food was nearly given to a child, an allergen was identified before consumption, medication was nearly unavailable, a known allergen was used in an activity without appropriate consideration, an error occurred in communication, or an emergency medication procedure was not followed correctly.

Following an incident or near miss, the school will consider what happened, why it happened, whether the IHP was followed, whether staff had appropriate training, whether communication was effective, whether the risk assessment was adequate, whether systems need changing and whether further staff training is required.

Significant incidents will be escalated in accordance with school, Hampshire and statutory reporting requirements.

First Aid and Emergency Equipment

The school will ensure that relevant first aid and emergency equipment is accessible.

Emergency allergy medication will be checked regularly. Checks will include expiry dates, physical condition, correct storage, accessibility, appropriate dosage where applicable and completeness of emergency kits.

Checks will be recorded.

Any medication that has expired or been used will be replaced promptly.

Used adrenaline auto-injectors will be disposed of safely in accordance with relevant guidance and manufacturer instructions.



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Monitoring and Quality Assurance

The Headteacher and designated senior leader will monitor the effectiveness of allergy safety arrangements.

This will include checking staff training compliance, allergy register accuracy, IHP completion and review, prescribed medication, spare adrenaline devices, expiry dates, emergency kit locations, school trip arrangements, catering arrangements, incident and near-miss records, and parent/carers communication.

The Governing Body will receive appropriate assurance that allergy safety arrangements are implemented effectively.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed at least annually.

It will also be reviewed following a serious allergic reaction, anaphylaxis incident, significant near miss, change in national legislation, change in statutory guidance, change in Hampshire guidance, or significant change in school arrangements.

Reviews will consider lessons learned from incidents and near misses.

The revised policy will be approved through the school's governance arrangements and published on the school website. A hard copy will be available on request.

Emergency Allergy Procedure – Staff Reminder

IF YOU SUSPECT ANAPHYLAXIS:

ACT IMMEDIATELY

1. GIVE ADRENALINE – Use the child's prescribed adrenaline device or the school's spare device where appropriate.
2. CALL 999 – State: "This is anaphylaxis / a severe allergic reaction."
3. STAY WITH THE CHILD – Do not leave them alone.
4. FOLLOW THE CHILD'S ALLERGY ACTION PLAN – Follow emergency medical advice.
5. GET HELP – Send another adult to collect emergency medication and/or summon the designated first aider.
6. CONTACT PARENTS/CARERS – Do this once the immediate emergency response is underway.
7. RECORD AND REVIEW – All serious incidents and near misses must be recorded and reviewed.

If in doubt, treat for anaphylaxis.



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Equality and Inclusion

Anton Junior School is committed to ensuring that children with allergies are fully included in school life.

We recognise that allergies may constitute a disability where they meet the relevant definition under the Equality Act 2010.

Reasonable adjustments will be considered where required.

The school will seek to ensure that children with allergies are not disadvantaged in relation to learning, school meals, PE, sport, trips, residential visits, clubs, celebrations, enrichment activities or social activities.

Policy Approval

Date: 10 September 2026

Review date: September 2027

Designated Senior Leader for Allergy Safety: Kerri Culver

Chair of Governors: Anna Hall

Person/Group	Responsibility
Governing Body	Ensure appropriate oversight and approval of the policy
Headteacher	Overall responsibility for allergy safety
Designated Senior Leader	Lead implementation, training, records, medication and review
All Staff	Follow policy, reduce risk and respond appropriately to emergencies
Teachers	Consider allergy risks when planning lessons and activities
Catering Provider	Provide accurate allergen information and safe food provision
Parents/Carers	Provide accurate medical information, plans and medication
Children	Follow age-appropriate allergy safety arrangements
First Aiders	Support emergency response within their training and competence
Trip Leaders	Ensure allergy arrangements and medication accompany children off-site