



## **Ripon Grammar School Allergens Policy**

### **General Statement**

This policy is concerned with a whole school approach to the health care and management of those members of our community suffering from specific allergies.

We are aware that our students may suffer from food, bee/ wasp sting, animal or nut allergies and we believe that all allergies should be taken seriously and dealt with in a professional and appropriate way.

Our position is not to guarantee a completely allergen free environment, rather: to minimise the risk of exposure, encourage self-responsibility, and plan for effective response to possible emergencies.

We are committed to no food and drink sharing.

Parents/care givers are asked to provide details of allergies in the child's School Admissions Forms, which are submitted before starting school.

### **General Aims**

The intent of this policy is to minimize the risk of any student suffering allergy-induced anaphylaxis whilst at school.

An allergic reaction to nuts is the most common high-risk allergy, and as such demands more rigorous controls throughout the policy.

The underlying principles of this policy include;

- The establishment of effective risk management practices to minimise the child, staff, family member and visitor exposure to known trigger foods and insects.
- Staff training and education to ensure effective emergency response to any allergic reaction situation.

This policy applies to all members of the school community:

- School Staff
- Parents/care givers
- Volunteers
- Supply staff
- Students

## Definitions

**Allergy** - A condition in which the body has an exaggerated response to a substance (e.g. food and drug) also known as hypersensitivity.

**Allergen** - A normally harmless substance that triggers an allergic reaction in the immune system of a susceptible person.

**Anaphylaxis** - Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a sudden, severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction to food, stings, bites, or medicines.

**EpiPen** - Brand name for syringe style device containing the drug Adrenalin, which is ready for immediate inter-muscular administration.

**Minimized Risk Environment**- An environment where risk management practices (e.g. Risk assessment forms) have minimised the risk of (allergen) exposure.

**Health Care Plan** - A detailed document outlining an individual child's condition treatment, and action plan for location of EpiPen.

## Procedures and Responsibilities for Allergy Management

### General

- The involvement of parents/care givers and staff in establishing Individual Healthcare Plans.
- The establishment and maintenance of practices for effectively communicating a student's Individual Healthcare Plan to all relevant staff.
- Staff training in anaphylaxis management, including awareness of triggers and first aid procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency.
- Age appropriate education of the children with severe food allergies.

### Medical Information

- The school will seek up to date information via a medical form when a student starts at the school.
- Any change in a student's medical condition during their time at Ripon Grammar School must be reported to the school.
- For a student with an allergic condition, the school requires parents/care givers to provide written advice from a doctor (GP), which explains the condition, defines the allergy triggers and any required medication.
- The School Health Worker will ensure that an Individual Healthcare Plan is established and updated for each student with a known allergy.
- All members of staff are required to review and familiarise themselves with the medical information.
- Where students with known allergies are participating in school excursions, the risk assessments must include this information.

### Medical Information (Auto-injector)

Where Auto-injectors (Adrenalin) are required in the Individual Healthcare Plan:

- Parents/care givers are responsible for the provision and timely replacement of the Auto-injectors.
- The Auto-injectors are located securely in relevant locations approved by the Headteacher.
- Auto-injectors will be located so that all adults involved with the child know where they are at all times.

## **The Role of Parents/care givers**

Parents/care givers are responsible for providing, in writing, on-going accurate and current medical information to the school.

Parents/care givers are to send a letter and meet with the school to confirm and detail the nature of the allergy; including:

- The allergen (the substance the child is allergic to).
- The nature of the allergic reaction (from rash, breathing problems to anaphylactic shock)
- What to do in case of allergic reaction, including any medication to be used and how it is to be used.
- Control measures – such as how the student can be prevented from getting into contact with the allergen.
- If a student has an allergy requiring an Auto-injector an Individual Healthcare Plan must be completed and signed by the parents/care givers.
- It is the responsibility of the parents/care givers to provide the school with up-to-date medication/equipment clearly labelled in the original packaging.
- In the case of life saving medication like Auto-injectors the student will not be allowed to attend without it.
- Parents/care givers are also required to provide up to date emergency contact information.
- Snacks and lunches brought into school are provided by each student's parent/care giver.
- It is their responsibility to ensure that the contents are safe for the student to consume.
- Parents/care givers should liaise with staff about appropriateness of snacks and any food-related activities (e.g. cooking).

## **The Role of Staff**

Staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with the policy and to adhere to health & safety regulations regarding food and drink.

- If a student's School Admissions Form states that they have an allergy then an Individual Healthcare Plan is needed. A risk assessment should be carried out and any actions identified to be put in place. The Assessment should be stored with the Student's Individual Healthcare Plan.
- Upon determining that a student attending school has a severe allergy, a team meeting will be set up as soon as possible where all staff concerned attend to update knowledge and awareness of student's needs.
- All staff who come into contact with the student will be made aware of what treatment/medication is required by the School Health Worker or Inclusion Team and where any medication is stored.
- All staff are to promote hand washing before and after eating.
- Students will be reminded that snack time foods should be peanut, nut free and not contain other allergens depending on the students attending. All staff should know the procedures at snack and lunch time to ensure the safety of students with allergies.
- However, staff cannot guarantee that foods will not contain traces of nuts.
- All tables are cleaned with an approved solution.
- Students are not permitted to share food.
- We provide specific Auto-injector use training.
- We may ask parents/care givers for a list of food products and food derivatives the student must not come into contact with.
- Emergency medication should be easily accessible, especially at times of high risk.
- Staff should liaise with parents/care givers about snacks and any food-related activities.

## **Actions**

### **In the event of a student suffering an allergic reaction:**

- We will delegate someone to contact the student's parents/care givers.
- If a student becomes distressed or symptoms become more serious telephone 999.
- Keep calm, make the student feel comfortable and give the student space.
- If medication is available, it will be administered as per training.
- If parents/care givers have not arrived by the time ambulance arrives, a member of staff will accompany the student to hospital.
- If a student is taken to hospital by car, two (where possible) members of staff will accompany them.

### **Role of other parents/care givers**

Snacks and lunches brought into the school by other parents/care givers should be peanut and nut free wherever possible.

The school will ensure that parents/care givers are regularly reminded to monitor the contents of lunchboxes and snack.

### **Catering**

Our current school lunch provider have their own policy for food allergies. Parents/care givers are required to make an appointment with the School Chief and provide a current medical letter stating the allergy of their child. Special dietary requirements are displayed at the till when a child purchases their food at lunch and/or breaktime.

<b>Signed:</b>	Jonathan Webb (Headmaster)
<b>Date:</b>	01/12/2021
<b>Review Date:</b>	01/12/2022

**Note:** These policies cover Ripon Grammar School and exclude lettings – these are covered on the lettings website.