



HILL WEST
Primary

FOUR OAKS

**ALLERGY AND
ANAPHYLAXIS
POLICY**

Hill West Primary School is a member of the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership

HILL WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

ALLERGY AND ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

Hill West Primary School recognises the potentially serious consequences that may occur for children with allergies. These allergies may include a condition known as anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction brought on by exposure to certain foods or other substances. The foods most likely to cause allergic reactions are peanuts, tree nuts (walnuts, almonds, hazelnuts, Brazil nuts, pecans, cashews, pistachio nuts, pine nuts, macadamia nuts etc), dairy products, eggs, soy, wheat, fish and shell fish. Although most food allergies produce symptoms that are uncomfortable, pupils with allergies to the above listed foods can also suffer more serious consequences. Non-food items such as latex and bee stings can also bring about a life-threatening reaction. Hill West Primary School has created this policy to reduce the likelihood of severe allergic reactions of pupils with known allergies while at school.

RESPONSIBILITY

We live in a world that is contaminated with potential allergens; therefore, anaphylactic children must learn to avoid specific triggers. Parents are responsible to educate their child about managing their allergy at school, including, but not limited to, identifying “safe foods” by reviewing the weekly lunch menu together.

Creating an environment that reduces the risk to severely allergic or anaphylactic children requires the co-operation and understanding of all members of the Hill West Primary School, including teachers, teaching assistants, lunch time supervisors, children and parents. In relevant literature sent home to parents we request that **NO NUT PRODUCTS ARE ALLOWED IN SCHOOL AT ANYTIME**. As with other policies, staff, parents and children are expected to comply.

Hill West Primary School works alongside our caterers to provide food in the dining hall that all students may enjoy. If parents are uncertain about possible exposure to allergy-causing foods, or, in the case of a pupil with multiple or unusual allergies, the family may be required to provide lunch and snacks for their children.

It is the responsibility of the relevant members of staff to ensure that the emergency medication kits, containing Epi-pens, relevant medical information, emergency treatments and contact details, is taken on all school trips.

IDENTIFICATION OF CHILDREN AT RISK

- It is the responsibility of the Parent and/or Guardian to inform the school that his or her child has allergies or is anaphylactic or potentially anaphylactic. This must be listed on the registration form and they must verbally notify the class teacher.
- School, with the support of external agencies where appropriate, will work with parents to implement a care plan to ensure that the allergies, needs and treatment of an individual pupil are known.
- All staff shall be aware of these children. An individual health and care plan, agreed by parents, will be in place for children with allergies and these will be available in pupil records folders. While the information pertaining to a pupil's allergies will be shared with all staff, details will be kept as confidential as possible.
- The Parent must complete the Consent for Emergency Administration of an Epi-pen form annually.
- On the child's admission to the school, the relevant teacher will discuss the child's allergies with the parent.
- All staff will receive annual training on allergy awareness administered by the "Medical Needs in School Team". This will include training on the administration of emergency medication (e.g. Epi-pen).

AVAILABILITY AND LOCATION OF EPI-PENS

The Epi-pen is an auto-injector containing epinephrine (adrenaline). This medication is a stimulant used to treat severe allergic reactions. It may also be used to treat severe allergic reactions that affect breathing.

Parents of an anaphylactic child must provide an Epi-pen to be left at school. The parent must promptly replace the Epi-pen when the expiry date is reached. The expiry date of the Epi-pen will be recorded on the alert card.

As our children are often too young to carry their own Epi-pen, the Epi-pens will be stored in a suitable location. They will be clearly labelled with the child's name, class and expiry date. All staff, and the pupil, will be made aware of its location.

- School staff are trained annually, and are ready, at all times, to administer the Epi-pen.
- Children who are no longer allergic, or no longer require an Epi-pen, must present a letter of explanation from their doctor or allergist so their name may be removed from the school's allergy list.
- If the Epi-pen has expired, the parent will be required to supply another one by the next day.
- The parent must sign Consent for Emergency Administration of an Epi-pen form. All staff will receive a demonstration of Epi-pen administration by the "Medical Needs in School Team".

SYMPTOMS OF AN ALLERGIC REACTION

Symptoms of an allergic reaction (as defined by NHS 22/11/2018) include:

- sneezing and an itchy, runny or blocked nose ([allergic rhinitis](#))
- itchy, red, watering eyes ([conjunctivitis](#))
- wheezing, chest tightness, [shortness of breath](#) and a [cough](#)
- a raised, itchy, red rash ([hives](#))
- [swollen lips, tongue, eyes or face](#)
- [tummy pain](#), feeling sick, [vomiting](#) or [diarrhoea](#)
- dry, red and cracked skin

Treatment

- Never walk/move the pupil during an allergic reaction, ALWAYS take the treatment to the pupil, never the pupil to treatment
- Never leave the pupil on their own
- Send for another adult to help you
- Sit the pupil down
- Administer the prescribed dose of antihistamines
- Contact the parents

Symptoms of a Severe Allergic Reaction (Anaphylaxis) (as defined by the NHS 29/11/2019)

- feeling [lightheaded or faint](#)
- [breathing difficulties](#) – such as fast, shallow breathing
- wheezing
- a fast heartbeat
- clammy skin
- [confusion](#) and anxiety
- collapsing or losing consciousness

Other symptoms may include:

- An itchy, raised rash (hives)
- Feeling sick or being sick
- Stomach Pain
- Swelling of the mouth, especially the tongue
- Swelling of the throat
 - hoarse voice
 - feeling of throat closing
 - feeling of choking

- Swelling of the airways
 - difficulty in breathing
 - tight chest
 - bark-like cough
- Drop in blood pressure
 - pallor
 - floppiness
 - collapse
 - loss of consciousness

Anaphylaxis is a medical emergency that requires immediate treatment.

Emergency Treatment

SEND SOMEONE TO DIAL 999 AND ASK FOR A PARAMEDIC AMBULANCE – Explain the child is anaphylactic

ADMINISTER THE PRESCRIBED EPI-PEN

- Inform senior staff that an ambulance has been sent for
- Ensure gates are open and someone is standing on the road to direct the ambulance on site
- Contact the parents

EMERGENCY TREATMENT

All staff are trained, as follows, in the management of an anaphylactic emergency:

1. There are no contraindications or hesitation to use an Epi-pen for a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. Time of administration is noted.
2. The teacher stays with the affected child.
3. The paramedic ambulance is called immediately.
4. The parents are contacted immediately after the 999 call is completed. If the parent is not available, the other emergency contacts on the registration form will be phoned.
5. Regardless of the degree of reaction or response to the Epi-pen, the child is taken to the hospital. An assigned member of staff **MUST** go with them if the parent is not present at the time of the ambulance departure.
6. The assigned member of staff will stay with the child at the hospital until the parent arrives. The Epi-pen that was administered will be taken to the hospital by the assigned member of staff.
7. The teacher will file a serious incident report.

Teachers, Teaching Assistants and the Governing Body, will review this policy as necessary. All staff are trained on an annual basis, which includes a review of anaphylactic reactions and Epi-pen administration.