Our Rock Academy

Allergy Safety Policy

" A nurturing, ambitious and inclusive school where every child feels known, valued and connected."

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Version Control

Date	Revisions

Purpose and principles

Our Rock Academy recognises that allergies can have a significant impact on the health, safety, wellbeing and participation of children and young people. Some allergies can cause anaphylaxis, which is a potentially life-threatening reaction requiring immediate treatment.

The Academy is committed to providing a safe, inclusive environment for pupils with allergies. We will take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of exposure to known allergens while ensuring that pupils with allergies are able to participate as fully as possible in education, social activities, trips and wider Academy life.

Responsibility

Overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy rests with the Headteacher. The Deputy Headteacher will act as the Academy's Allergy Safety Lead and will oversee the day-to-day arrangements for allergy safety.

The Allergy Safety Lead will maintain appropriate records, ensure that Individual Healthcare Plans and Allergy Action Plans are available where required, coordinate staff training, oversee emergency medication arrangements and ensure that incidents and near misses are reviewed.

All staff have a responsibility for allergy safety. Staff must be aware of pupils with known allergies, understand how to reduce the risk of exposure and know how to respond if an allergic reaction occurs.

Identifying and supporting pupils with allergies

Information about allergies will be obtained from parents and carers when a pupil joins the Academy and whenever a new allergy or change in medical circumstances is reported. Information may also be obtained from the pupil, previous educational settings or healthcare professionals where appropriate.

The Academy will maintain an up-to-date record of pupils with known allergies, including their known allergens, whether they are at risk of anaphylaxis, whether they have prescribed medication and whether an Individual Healthcare Plan or Allergy Action Plan is in place.

Where a pupil's allergy has a functional impact, creates a risk of harm and requires arrangements that are additional to or different from the Academy's general arrangements, an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) will be developed. The IHP will be agreed with the pupil and their parents or carers and will take account of relevant healthcare advice.

The IHP will explain how the pupil's allergy is managed, what adjustments are required, how risks will be reduced, what medication is required and what action should be taken in an emergency. Any Allergy Action Plan or Asthma Action Plan issued by a healthcare professional will be attached to or referenced within the IHP.

Reducing the risk of exposure

Our Rock Academy will take reasonable steps to minimise the risk of pupils coming into contact with their known allergens. This includes considering allergens when planning lessons, practical activities, cooking, science, craft activities, sporting activities, trips and activities involving animals.

Food provided by the school will be managed carefully, with appropriate consideration given to allergen information and the risk of cross-contamination. The school will also consider the risks associated with food brought onto the premises by pupils, staff, parents or other individuals.

Where a pupil has an airborne or contact allergy, reasonable adjustments will be considered to reduce the likelihood of exposure.

Staff are expected to consider allergy risks as part of normal activity planning rather than treating allergy management as something that only applies during lunchtime.

Emergency medication and anaphylaxis

Where a pupil has been prescribed an adrenaline auto-injector, the school will ensure that it is readily accessible whenever the pupil is on the premises or participating in an school activity. Access must not be unnecessarily restricted by the location in which medication is stored.

Staff will be trained to recognise anaphylaxis and to respond promptly in accordance with the pupil's Allergy Action Plan and the Academy's emergency procedures.

In an emergency, adrenaline should be administered as soon as possible and emergency services contacted. The Department for Education allergy safety guidance states that adrenaline should be administered within five minutes in a case of anaphylaxis, meaning the Academy's arrangements must allow emergency medication to reach the pupil within that timeframe.

The Academy will keep a pair of age-appropriate spare adrenaline auto-injectors for emergency use, these will be stored in an accessible, clearly identified location and managed in accordance with current guidance. Spare devices should be stored in pairs and must not be locked away. Their expiry dates will be checked regularly and devices will be replaced following use or when they expire.

Location of spare adrenaline devices: Medical room

Staff awareness and training

All staff who may be present when pupils are on the premises will receive allergy awareness and emergency response training at least annually. New staff will receive appropriate information as part of their induction, and arrangements will be made to ensure that supply, agency and temporary staff are aware of the Academy's allergy procedures.

Training will ensure that staff understand allergies and their potential risks, can recognise allergic reactions and anaphylaxis, know how to obtain and administer emergency medication where

appropriate, understand the Academy's allergy safety arrangements and know how to report an allergic reaction or near miss.

Inclusion and wellbeing

The school recognises that living with an allergy can cause anxiety and may affect a pupil's confidence and emotional wellbeing. Pupils will therefore be supported to manage their allergy in a way that is appropriate to their age, maturity and individual circumstances.

Pupils with allergies will not be unnecessarily excluded from activities. Where reasonable adjustments are required, these will be considered and incorporated into the pupil's IHP or relevant risk assessment.

Any bullying, teasing or deliberate exposure to an allergen will be treated seriously and managed in accordance with the Academy's behaviour and safeguarding procedures. The Department for Education allergy safety guidance specifically identifies pupil wellbeing and the prevention and response to bullying as important elements of allergy safety.

Educational visits and activities outside the Academy

The school will make reasonable adjustments to enable pupils with allergies to participate in educational visits, residentials and extracurricular activities.

Where a pupil is at risk of anaphylaxis, an appropriate risk assessment will be completed before an off-site visit. Their prescribed adrenaline device will accompany them and appropriate trained staff will be present to administer emergency medication if required.

Incidents and near misses

All significant allergic reactions, suspected cases of anaphylaxis and allergy-related near misses will be recorded and reviewed.

A near miss may include an occasion where a pupil was exposed or nearly exposed to a known allergen, emergency medication was unavailable or inaccessible, incorrect food was provided, or an existing control measure failed but harm was avoided.

Following an incident or near miss, the school will consider whether its procedures, risk assessments, staff training or the pupil's IHP need to be amended. Parents and carers will be informed where appropriate. The Department for Education allergy safety guidance expects schools to learn from serious incidents and near misses and use them to improve allergy safety arrangements.

Confidentiality and information sharing

Information about a pupil's allergy will be shared with those members of staff who need it in order to keep the pupil safe. Information will be handled sensitively and in accordance with the Academy's data protection arrangements.

The school recognises that medical information is highly personal. However, appropriate information sharing is necessary to ensure that staff can respond effectively in an emergency.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed at least annually by the Allergy Safety Lead and Headteacher. It will also be reviewed following a serious allergic reaction, significant near miss, change in Department for Education allergy safety guidance, or any other event that indicates that the Academy's arrangements should be amended.

The policy will be published on the school website and made available to parents, carers and staff. Staff will be expected to understand the policy as part of their annual allergy awareness training.

Appendix 1

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">NAME – Individual Healthcare Plan for allergy</th></tr>
<tr><td>Date of birth:</td><td rowspan="4">Current photo</td></tr>
<tr><td>Class:</td></tr>
<tr><td>Emergency contacts:</td></tr>
<tr><td>Staff who need to be aware:</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Allergy:
Note what allergy the child or young person has.
Note any known allergens.
Note whether the child or young person is likely to be aware that they are having an allergic reaction and whether they can alert others.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">How the allergy is managed:
Note any care or action plans or prescribed medication issued by healthcare professionals.
If the allergy can be partly or wholly managed by practical adjustments (for example avoidance of known allergens), note them here.
Note the extent to which the child or young person is able to take responsibility for managing their allergy.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Impact on education:
Indicate the potential harm which might come to the child or young person if their allergy is not managed properly.
Indicate how the allergy may impact on the child or young person’s learning.
Indicate how the allergy may impact on the child or young person’s emotional wellbeing.
If relevant, note any interaction between allergy and SEN.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Arrangements for support:
Give details of the specific support or adaptations which the school, college or early years setting will put in place, within its educational remit.
Outline measures to reduce the risk of contact with known allergens.
Give details of the specific support or adaptations to manage food allergy at meal and snack times.
Note arrangements for maintaining educational progress where absence or missed learning occurs due to allergy.</td></tr>
</table>

Visits and trips: *Give details of any arrangements or procedures which may be required for school trips or other activities outside of the normal timetable that will ensure the child can participate. Note any requirement for a risk assessment and prompts for specific issues which should be considered.*	
Emergency response: *Where an Action Plan issued by a healthcare professional covers emergency response, refer to it and ensure it is attached.* *Otherwise summarise the signs or symptoms which would indicate an emergency.* *Set out what to do in an emergency, including whom to contact.* *If relevant, note where "spare" adrenaline devices are located.*	
Last discussed with parents:	**Date**
Issued by:	**Date**:
Next planned review:	**Date**: