

Weald of Kent Grammar School

Allergy Policy

Anaphylaxis is a severe life threatening generalised or systemic hypersensitivity reaction. This is characterised by rapidly developing life-threatening airway / breathing / circulatory problems usually associated with skin or mucosal changes. It is possible to be allergic to anything which contains a protein, however most people will react to a group of potent allergens. Common UK Allergens include (but not limited to):-

Peanuts, Tree Nuts, Sesame, Milk, Egg, Fish, Latex, Insect venom, Pollen and Animal Dander.

At Weald we focus on creating a safe, "allergen-aware" environment through policy, risk management, and training, rather than a guaranteed, legally mandated ban. However, we do ask that students do not bring Nut's or nut-based products to school due to the high number of students and staff at risk.

This policy sets out how Weald of Kent grammar school will support pupils with allergies, to ensure they are safe and are not disadvantaged in any way whilst taking part in school life. All efforts are made to ensure that a child with an allergy can participate in all school activities and are not made to feel self-conscious or excluded.

Our allergy lead is Ken Macsporrán who works alongside the school nurse to ensure allergy policy and management is up to date. Our trustee allergy lead is Saima Islam.

Role and Responsibilities: Parent/carer responsibilities

On entry to the school, it is the parent's responsibility to inform the school of any allergies. This information should include all previous severe allergic reactions, history of anaphylaxis and details of all prescribed medication. Parents/carers are to supply a copy of their child's Allergy Action Plan to school. If they do not currently have an Allergy Action Plan this should be developed as soon as possible between the parent/carer, school and a healthcare professional. Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring any required medication is supplied, in date and replaced as necessary. This may include, but is not limited to AAI's, antihistamines and inhalers.

Parents/carers are requested to keep the school up to date with any changes in their child's care. A health care plan will also be completed which will need to be updated yearly. The allergy action plan will be kept updated accordingly. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that the student has two in date adrenaline auto injectors with them for the school day, school trips and events where the student will not be on school property. We also advise parents to send in spare adrenaline auto injectors where possible for us to store in medical in the event the ones the student carries misfire/expire.

School and staff Responsibilities

As per Benedicts Law that has come into effect, all school staff at Weald will have comprehensive allergy and emergency response training. All staff will complete face to face allergy and anaphylaxis training and be taught how to use an adrenaline auto-injector (AAI). Training is provided for all staff on a yearly basis and on an ad-hoc basis for any new members of staff.

Our classrooms all have copies of the following emergency flash cards:

ALLERGY EMERGENCY CARD

IF YOU ARE WITH A STUDENT WHO IS SHOWING SIGNS OF A SEVERE ALLERGIC REACTION, TAKE THESE STEPS NOW:

- 1** LIE THE CHILD FLAT WITH LEGS RAISED – DO NOT MOVE THEM 
- 2** IF THE STUDENT IS SHOWING SIGNS OF ANAPHYLAXIS AND AN AAI IS AVAILABLE, USE IT NOW IN THE UPPER THIGH
(AAI - adrenaline pen / EpiPen / Jext Pen)
- 3** If you are alone in the classroom, **give the duplicate of this card to a student** and ask them to hand it to the first adult they see. **You must stay with the child.** If you are alone, shout for help from where you are.
- 4** If you are able, **call 999**, but **do not leave the student.** Say 'Emergency - child in anaphylaxis' (AN + UH + FI + LAK + SIS)
- 5** After 5 minutes, give 2nd AAI in the **other leg**, if child not improved
- 6** If the student shows no signs of life – **COMMENCE CPR IMMEDIATELY**

  

ALLERGY EMERGENCY CARD

IF YOU ARE BEING HANDED THIS CARD, IT IS BECAUSE A CHILD IN ROOM

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IS SHOWING SYMPTOMS OF A SEVERE ALLERGIC REACTION, YOU MUST NOW:

- 1** **CALL 999 IMMEDIATELY AND SAY "EMERGENCY - CHILD IN ANAPHYLAXIS"**
(AN + UH + FI + LAK + SIS)
Ideally call from a mobile phone so that it can be taken to where the student is.
- 2** **Contact the first aider** (or give another person the specific task of doing this)
- 3** Ensure school office is notified of an emergency, alert a member of the SLT
- 4** If your school has a spare adrenaline autoinjector pen (EpiPen / Jext Pen), locate it take it to where the child is
- 5** Ensure the student's emergency contact is notified

IMPORTANT INFORMATION OVERLEAF

When school is informed that a child has an allergy, the school nurse will be in contact with the parents/carers and write an individual care plan. Staff must be aware of the pupils in their care (regular or cover classes) who have known allergies as an allergic reaction could occur at any time and not just at mealtimes. Any food-related activities must be risk assessed and supervised with due caution. Staff leading school trips will risk assess the activities taking place and whether they could pose a risk for children with allergens. If risks are identified they take appropriate action to ensure the risk is minimised and do so in collaboration with the Head of School. They ensure they carry all relevant emergency supplies. Trip leaders will check that all pupils with allergies have two AAI's with them. Pupils unable to produce their required medication will not be able to attend the trip/event.

The school nurse will ensure that the up-to-date Allergy Action Plan and Individual Care Plan is kept with the pupil's medication and ensure that the medication is always accessible. It is the parents'/carers' responsibility to ensure all medication is in date however the school nurses will check medication kept at school monthly and send a reminder to parents/carers if medication is approaching expiry. For cooking activities these activities and ingredients are fully nut free. All ingredients are checked thoroughly by the staff member involved. School will inform parents/carers of all children the importance of being 'Allergen and Nut Aware' and the aim to significantly reduce to risk of contact for children with allergies to their known allergen. Families are asked not to include nut products in lunch boxes, as this poses a significant risk to others in school who have a nut allergy.

Meals and catering

Accent catering has a nut free policy; however, all their food is prepared in an environment where food allergens and nut traces may be present. Food allergens are identified on their menus or packaging but if students have special dietary requirements, they can speak to the Chef who will be happy to let them know what they are able to eat and if nothing on the menu is suitable, they will find them an alternative.

All their grab and go and prepackaged items comply with Natasha's law and include a full list of ingredients.

All of accent catering staff are allergy trained and aware.

Pupil Responsibilities

Pupils are encouraged and supported to have a good awareness of their symptoms and to let an adult know as soon as they suspect they are having an allergic reaction. Pupils who are trained and confident to administer their own auto-injectors will be encouraged to take responsibility for always carrying them on their person and not locking them away in lockers etc. Pupils are also encouraged and reminded to bring their EpiPen's on school trips with them.

Allergy Action Plans & Health care plans

Allergy action plans are designed to function alongside or in place of Individual Care Plans for children with food allergies, providing medical and parental consent for schools to administer medicines in the event of an allergic reaction, including consent to administer a spare adrenaline auto-injector (AAI) when required. It is the parent/carer's responsibility to complete the allergy action plan with help from a healthcare professional (e.g. GP/School Nurse/Allergy Specialist) and provide this to the school.

Supply, storage and care of medication

Here at Weald of Kent, students are encouraged to take as much responsibility as possible in managing their condition. It is advised that all students that have been prescribed AAI's carry them on their persons. Students can store them in their pencil cases, or they are allowed to carry a small side bag/bumbag for the school day. However, we do recommend parent sending in spares for us to store in medical in the event their one's misfire/expire.

As outlined above it is the responsibility of the child's parents to ensure that the anaphylaxis kit is up-to-date and clearly labelled, however the school nurses will check medication kept at school monthly and send a reminder to parents if medication is approaching expiry. Storage AAIs are stored at room temperature, protected from direct sunlight and temperature extremes. Disposal AAIs are single use only and must be disposed of in a sharps bin. Used AAIs can be given to ambulance paramedics on arrival. The sharps bin is kept in the nurse's office.

Spare adrenaline auto injectors in school

Spare adrenaline auto-injector (AAI) devices for emergency use in children who are risk of anaphylaxis, but their own devices are not available or not working (e.g. because they are out of date or they have forgotten them) are kept in school. Here at Weald of Kent, we have anaphylaxis kits in school on both sites. In both canteens and in student support. These are not a second of devices for an individual child and they can be used on any child or adult experiencing anaphylaxis

Spare devices should be used:

-  Primarily for pupils with known risk, medical authorisation and written parental consent.
-  In exceptional circumstances, for any child or adult presenting with an unexpected anaphylactic reaction—even without prior consent or diagnosis

Author:	Ken MacSporran	Link Trustees:	Quality of Care Committee
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