Thackley Primary School

Allergen and Anaphylaxis Policy

Contents:

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Statement of intent

Thackley Primary School strives to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all members of the school community. For this reason, this policy is to be adhered to by all staff members, parents and pupils, with the intention of minimising the risk of anaphylaxis occurring whilst at school.

The school will work in partnership with parents to identify allergens, assess risk and put appropriate control measures in place so that pupils with allergies can attend school safely and participate fully in school life.

The school will not be able to guarantee a completely allergen-free environment. However, the school will take all reasonable steps to minimise exposure to allergens, promote awareness and self-management where appropriate, and ensure that robust emergency procedures are in place for both known and unexpected allergic reactions.

The school will maintain this policy as a dedicated allergy safety policy, separate from its wider policy on supporting pupils with medical conditions, because of the specific and potentially life-threatening risks associated with anaphylaxis.

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1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Children and Families Act 2014
- The Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2017
- The Food Information (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2019 (Natasha's Law)
- Department of Health 'Guidance on the use of adrenaline auto-injectors in schools'
- Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026
- DfE 'Allergy safety in schools'

This policy will be implemented in conjunction with the following school policies and documents:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Administering Medication Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy

2. Definitions

For the purpose of this policy:

Allergy – is a condition in which the body has an exaggerated response to a substance. This is also known as hypersensitivity.

Allergen – is a normally harmless substance that triggers an allergic reaction for a susceptible person.

Allergic reaction – is the body's reaction to an allergen and can be identified by, but not limited to, the following symptoms:

- Hives
- Generalised flushing of the skin
- Itching and tingling of the skin
- Tingling in and around the mouth

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- Burning sensation in the mouth
- Swelling of the throat, mouth or face
- Feeling wheezy
- Abdominal pain
- Rising anxiety
- Nausea and vomiting
- Alterations in heart rate
- Feeling of weakness

Anaphylaxis – is a sudden, severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction involving Airway, Breathing and/or Circulation problems. Skin symptoms may also be present, but are not always present. This kind of reaction may include the following symptoms:

- Persistent cough
- Throat tightness
- Change in voice, e.g. hoarse or croaky sounds
- Wheeze (whistling noise due to a narrowed airway)
- Difficulty swallowing/speaking
- Swollen tongue
- Difficult or noisy breathing
- Chest tightness
- Feeling dizzy or faint
- Suddenly becoming sleepy, unconscious or collapsing
- For infants and younger pupils, becoming pale or floppy

3. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

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- Ensuring that policies, plans and procedures are in place to support pupils with allergies and those who are at risk of anaphylaxis and that these arrangements are sufficient to meet statutory responsibilities and minimise risks.
- Ensuring that the school's approach to allergies and anaphylaxis focusses on, and accounts for, the needs of each individual pupil.
- Ensuring that staff are properly trained to provide the support that pupils need, and that they receive allergy and anaphylaxis training at least annually.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of this policy, reviewing it on an annual basis and following any serious allergy incident or near miss.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring that there is a named senior leader responsible for allergy safety and the implementation of this policy.
- Ensuring that parents are informed of their responsibilities in relation to their child's allergies.
- Ensuring that all relevant risk assessments, e.g. to do with food preparation, have been carried out and controls to mitigate risks are implemented.
- Ensuring that all designated first aiders are trained in the use of adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) and the management of anaphylaxis.
- Ensuring that all staff members are provided with information regarding allergic reactions and anaphylaxis, including the necessary precautions and how to respond.
- Ensuring that catering staff are aware of pupils' allergies and act in accordance with the school's policies regarding food and hygiene, including this policy.

All staff members are responsible for:

- Attending allergy and anaphylaxis training at least annually.
- Being familiar with and implementing pupils' individual healthcare plans (IHPs) as appropriate.
- Responding immediately and appropriately in the event of a medical emergency.
- Reinforcing effective hygiene practices, including those in relation to the management of food.

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- Monitoring all food supplied to pupils by both the school and parents.
- Ensuring that pupils do not share food and drink in order to prevent accidental contact with an allergen.

The kitchen manager is responsible for:

- Monitoring the food allergen log and allergen tracking information for completeness.
- Reporting any non-conforming food labelling to the supplier, where necessary.
- Ensuring the practices of kitchen staff comply with food allergen labelling laws and that training is regularly reviewed and updated.
- Recording incidents of non-conformity, either in allergen labelling, use of ingredients or safe staff practice, in an allergen incident log.
- Acting on entries to the allergen incident log and ensuring the risks of recurrence are minimised.

Kitchen staff (employed by FM Catering) are responsible for:

- Ensuring they are fully aware of the rules surrounding allergens, the processes for food preparation in line with this policy and the processes for identifying pupils with specific dietary requirements.
- Ensuring they are fully aware of whether each item of food served contains any of the main 14 allergens, as is a legal obligation, and making sure this information is readily available for those who may need it.
- Ensuring that the required food labelling is complete, correct, clearly legible, and is either printed on the food packaging or attached via a secure label.
- Reporting to the kitchen manager if food labelling fails to comply with the law.

All parents are responsible for:

- Notifying the school of their child's allergens, the nature of the allergic reaction, what medication to administer, specified control measures and what can be done to prevent the occurrence of an allergic reaction.
- Keeping the school up to date with their child's medical information.

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- Providing the school with written medical documentation, including instructions for administering medication as directed by the child's doctor.
- Raising any concerns they may have about the management of their child's allergies with the classroom teacher.

All pupils are responsible for:

- Ensuring that they do not exchange food with other pupils.
- Avoiding food which they know they are allergic to, as well as any food with unknown ingredients.
- Notifying a member of staff immediately in the event they believe they are having an allergic reaction, even if the cause is unknown, or have come into contact with an allergen.

4. Identifying individuals with allergies

The school will keep a record of all individuals with allergies, including whether they have an IHP or an allergy action plan.

Where a pupil requires an IHP, the school will capture key information about their allergy within the IHP. A formal diagnosis will not be required before appropriate arrangements are put in place. This will include the following:

- An up-to-date photograph of the pupil
- What the pupil's known allergens are and whether the allergen is ingested, inhaled or absorbed
- Whether the pupil has an allergy action plan attached to their IHP
- Whether the pupil has been prescribed adrenaline devices and, if so, what make and dosage it is
- Whether there is prior medical and parental consent for a spare adrenaline device or emergency asthma reliever inhaler to be used – notwithstanding that in an emergency situation that could not be foreseen, a spare adrenaline device can be used without prior parental consent
- Whether the pupil also has asthma, and if so, an asthma plan will be attached to the IHP which includes whether there is parental consent to use an emergency asthma reliever inhaler in an emergency

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The school will use its best endeavours to gather information about known allergies, e.g. by asking a pupil's previous setting for relevant information and by asking the pupil and their parents to provide information.

Where pupils with allergies are starting at the school, arrangements will be put in place for the start of the relevant school term. In other cases, e.g. pupils moving to the school mid-term, every effort will be made to ensure that arrangements are put in place within two weeks.

For staff members with allergies, arrangements will be put in place when they commence work.

For visitors with allergies, information will be sought at sign in.

The school will keep a list of individuals with known allergies in places where food may be served or handled. Such lists will be kept in areas accessible to staff only.

5. Managing exposure to allergens

The school will take reasonable steps to manage the risk of individuals with known allergies coming in to contact with allergens while on the school site or during school activities.

This includes considering potential exposure to allergens through food, environmental factors, classroom activities, animals, and external visits. Measures will focus on awareness, risk assessment, and appropriate control measures, while ensuring that pupils with allergies are able to participate fully in school life.

Pupils will not be prevented from participating in activities alongside their peers simply because of a risk of exposure to allergens. Where necessary, reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure activities can be carried out safely and inclusively.

Food allergies

The school will ensure that catering staff have effective systems in place to identify pupils with dietary requirements at mealtimes. These will include staff awareness, allergy registers, photographs of children in food preparation areas.

The school and its catering provider will take reasonable steps to minimise the risk of allergen exposure in food provided on site.

This includes:

- Ensuring allergen information is available for food served in accordance with food allergen legislation.

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- Ensuring catering staff are aware of pupils with dietary requirements and understand the controls in place to provide allergen-safe meals.
- Checking ingredients and product information when menus or suppliers change.
- Implementing procedures to minimise the risk of cross-contamination during the preparation, handling and serving of food.
- Working with parents and pupils to provide suitable meal options for those with allergies, intolerances or coeliac disease wherever possible.

Pupils with food allergies will not be segregated from their peers at mealtimes.

Food brought into the school environment by pupils, parents or staff may present a risk to individuals with allergies. To reduce this risk the school will:

- Encourage clear labelling of lunch boxes, drinks bottles and food containers belonging to pupils with allergies.
- Set expectations that pupils do not share or trade food, food utensils or containers.
- Seek parental engagement where food is brought in for celebrations or special events to ensure inclusion and safety for pupils with allergies.
- Ensure staff are aware that unlabelled foods may present a greater risk of allergen exposure than packaged foods with allergen information.

The school may discourage certain allergens from being brought onto site where appropriate. The school, however, recognises that it cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment and will adopt an allergy-aware approach supported by strong emergency procedures.

Environmental and contact allergens

Where pupils have known allergies to airborne or contact allergens, e.g. pollen, dust mites, animals or insect stings, the school will take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of exposure where possible.

This may include:

- Monitoring environmental conditions where appropriate.
- Ensuring staff are aware of pupils with known allergies.
- Implementing appropriate control measures as identified in the pupil's IHP.

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Classroom activities and curriculum activities

Staff planning activities will consider the potential risk of exposure to allergens.

This includes activities such as:

- Craft activities.
- Science experiments.
- Cooking activities.
- Cultural or celebration events.
- Activities involving animals.

Where materials used in activities may contain allergens, staff will consider whether suitable alternatives should be used.

Where necessary, alternative materials or approaches will be used so that pupils with allergies are not excluded from activities.

External visits and trips

When planning school trips, excursions, residential visits or sporting events, staff will consider the risk of allergen exposure and ensure appropriate risk assessments are carried out.

Planning will include consideration of:

- Catering arrangements and allergen risks.
- Access to emergency medication and prescribed adrenaline devices.
- Staff awareness of pupils' allergies and emergency procedures.

The school will conduct a risk assessment for any pupil at risk of anaphylaxis taking part in a trip off the premises. All activities on the school trip will be risk assessed to see if they pose a threat to any pupils with allergies and alternative activities will be planned where necessary to ensure the pupils are included.

Pupils at risk of anaphylaxis who have been prescribed an adrenaline device will have their prescribed device with them and there will be staff available who are trained to administer adrenaline in an emergency.

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The school will speak to the parents of pupils with allergies where appropriate to ensure their co-operation with any special arrangements required for the trip.

The school will consider whether it is appropriate to take spare AAI devices in case of emergency use on the trip.

Where the venue or site being visited cannot assure appropriate food can be provided to cater for pupils' allergies, the pupil will take their own food or the school will provide a suitable packed lunch.

Reasonable adjustments will be made where necessary to enable pupils with allergies to participate safely in trips and activities.

Animal allergies

Pupils with known allergies to specific animals will have restricted access to those that may trigger a response.

In the event of an animal on the school site, staff members will be made aware of any pupils to whom this may pose a risk and will be responsible for ensuring that the pupil does not come into contact with the specified allergen.

The school will ensure that any pupil or staff member who comes into contact with the animal washes their hands thoroughly to minimise the risk of the allergen spreading.

Where medication is required for a pupil with an animal allergy, this will be managed in accordance with the pupil's IHP and the school's medication procedures.

6. Food allergen labelling

The school will adhere to allergen labelling rules for pre-packed food goods, in line with the Food Information (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2019, also known as Natasha's Law.

The school will ensure that all food is labelled accurately, that food is never labelled as being 'free from' an ingredient unless staff are certain that there are no traces of that ingredient in the product, and that all labelling is checked before being offered for consumption.

The relevant staff, e.g. kitchen staff, will be trained prior to storing, handling, preparing, cooking and/or serving food to ensure they are aware of their legal obligations.

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Food labelling

Food goods classed as 'pre-packed for direct sale' (PPDS) will clearly display the following information on the packaging:

- The name of the food
- The full ingredients list, with ingredients that are allergens emphasised, e.g. in bold, italics, or a different colour

7. Adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs)

Pupils at risk of anaphylaxis may be prescribed an adrenaline device (AD) for use in the event of an emergency. This may include an AAI or another prescribed adrenaline device.

Under The Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2017 the school is able to purchase AAI devices without a prescription, for emergency use on pupils who are at risk of anaphylaxis but whose device is not available or is not working.

The school understands that anaphylaxis reactions can occur in pupils without a pre-existing diagnosis of a food allergy. The school will therefore stock spare AAIs for use in emergency situations.

Any spare AAIs held by the school in this way will be considered spare devices and not a replacement for the pupil's own device. Pupils who have been prescribed adrenaline devices will have their prescribed devices readily available to them at all times while at school.

In addition, spare AAIs will be used with anyone experiencing anaphylaxis in an emergency, for the purpose of saving their life. This is in accordance with the legal exemption under Regulation 238 of the Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2017.

Where possible, the school will hold one brand of AAI to avoid confusion with administration and training; however, subject to the brands pupils are prescribed, the school may decide to purchase multiple brands.

The school will purchase AAIs in accordance with age-based criteria, relevant to the age of pupils at risk of anaphylaxis, to ensure the correct dosage requirements are adhered to.

AAIs will be kept in a central place in a box marked clearly with the pupil's name but not locked in a cupboard or an office where access is restricted.

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The emergency anaphylaxis kit(s) can be found at the following location:

The First Aid Room

In line with manufacturer's guidelines, all AAI devices are stored at room temperature in line with manufacturer's guidelines, protected from direct sunlight and extreme temperature.

The **Lead First Aider** will conduct ad-hoc and termly checks of the emergency anaphylaxis kit(s) to ensure that:

- Spare AAI devices and salbutamol inhalers are present and have not expired.
- Spare AAI devices are replaced when they are used.

The Headteacher is responsible for overseeing the protocol for the use of spare AAIs, its monitoring and implementation, and for maintaining the Register of AAIs.

Any used or expired AAIs will be disposed of in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

Where any AAIs are used, the following information will be recorded on the AAI Record KittMedical:

- Where and when the reaction took place
- What medication was given
- Who administered it
- Whether a second dose was required

8. Access to spare AAIs

A spare AAI can be administered as a substitute for a pupil's own prescribed AAI, if this cannot be administered correctly, without delay.

The school will seek to obtain advance consent from parents, or from the young person where appropriate, for a spare adrenaline device to be used. Where a pupil has a known allergy or risk of anaphylaxis, this consent will normally be recorded as part of their IHP or allergy action plan. Obtaining advance consent is good practice so that, in an emergency, consent can be assumed to be in place.

The absence of prior consent will not prevent or delay the administration of a spare adrenaline device in an emergency. Where anaphylaxis is suspected, anyone may take reasonable action to save a life without checking whether prior consent has been given.

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9. Medical attention and required support

Once a pupil's allergies have been identified, the school will consider what arrangements are required to support the pupil. Where an IHP is required, a meeting will be set up between the pupil's parents and any other relevant staff members, in which the pupil's allergies will be discussed and a plan of appropriate action/support will be developed.

All medical attention, including that in relation to administering medication, will be conducted in accordance with the Administering Medication Policy and the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.

Parents will provide the school with any necessary medication, ensuring that this is clearly labelled with the pupil's name, class, expiration date and instructions for administering it.

Pupils who require life-saving medication, such as prescribed adrenaline devices, will be expected to have their medication available at school and on educational visits.

All members of staff involved with a pupil with a known allergy are aware of the location of emergency medication and the necessary action to take in the event of an allergic reaction.

Any specified support which the pupil may require will be outlined in their IHP.

All staff members providing support to a pupil with a known medical condition, including those in relation to allergens, will be familiar with the pupil's IHP.

Philippa Miller (DHT/SENCo) is responsible for working alongside relevant staff members and parents in order to develop IHPs for pupils with allergies, ensuring that any necessary support is provided and the required documentation is completed, including risk assessments being undertaken.

Annette Patterson (Headteacher) has overall responsibility for ensuring that IHPs are implemented, monitored and communicated to the relevant members of the school community.

10. Staff training

All staff will receive allergy awareness training at least annually. This will include teaching and support staff, peripatetic staff, agency workers, regular volunteers, catering staff and those who oversee pupils at breakfast or after-school clubs.

New staff members will receive allergy awareness training as part of their induction. Supply, temporary and other relevant non-permanent staff will be provided with information about

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pupils with allergies, emergency procedures and the location of emergency medication and will be required to have received appropriate allergy awareness training.

Where gaps in staff training are identified, the school will undertake a risk assessment and take appropriate action to address them. This may include arranging additional training or ensuring that appropriately trained staff are available to support pupils with allergies during lessons, activities, trips or other school events.

11. Mild to moderate allergic reaction

Mild to moderate symptoms of an allergic reaction include the following:

- Swollen lips, face or eyes
- Itchy/tingling mouth
- Mild throat tightness
- Hives or itchy skin rash
- Abdominal pain or vomiting
- Sudden change in behaviour

If any of the above symptoms occur in a pupil, the nearest adult will stay with the pupil and refer to their IHP to determine appropriate next steps.

The pupil's parents will be contacted immediately if a pupil suffers a mild to moderate allergic reaction, and if any medication has been administered.

For mild to moderate allergy symptoms, the pupil's IHP will be followed and the pupil will be monitored closely in a safe place for at least 60 minutes to ensure the reaction does not progress into anaphylaxis.

Should the reaction progress into anaphylaxis, the school will act in accordance with this policy. Where the pupil is required to go to the hospital, an ambulance will be called.

12. Managing anaphylaxis

All staff will be aware of the 'ABC' (Airway, Breathing, Circulation) principle when recognising anaphylaxis.

Staff members will be able to recognise the following signs of anaphylaxis:

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- **Airways:**
  - Tightening of the throat
  - Hoarse voice
  - Difficulty swallowing
  - Swollen tongue
- **Breathing:**
  - Sudden wheezing
  - Difficult or noisy breathing
  - Persistent cough
- **Circulation:**
  - Persistent dizziness
  - Pale or floppy
  - Suddenly sleepy
  - Collapse/unconscious

Where a pupil with asthma and a food allergy develops sudden breathing difficulties, staff will consider anaphylaxis and administer adrenaline without delay rather than an asthma reliever inhaler.

If one or more of the signs above are present, the nearest trained staff member will follow the below procedure:

1. Lay the pupil flat with their legs raised. If breathing is difficult, allow them to sit upright.
2. Administer adrenaline without delay, using the pupil's prescribed adrenaline device or a spare AAI if necessary.
3. Call 999 immediately and request an ambulance, stating that the person is experiencing anaphylaxis.

After administering adrenaline, the staff member(s) handling the situation will stay with the pupil until the ambulance arrives and will keep them lying down, even if the situation appears to be improving. They will then phone the pupil's parent or emergency contact.

If there is no improvement after five minutes, an additional dose of adrenaline will be administered using a second device.

CPR will be commenced at any time if there are no signs of life.

If necessary, other staff members may assist the designated staff members with administering AAIs.

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The headteacher will be contacted immediately, as well as a suitably trained individual, such as a first aider.

In the event that a pupil without a prescribed AAI, or who has not been medically diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis, suffers a suspected severe allergic reaction, the nearest trained member of staff will administer a spare AAI without delay if anaphylaxis is suspected. Emergency services will be contacted immediately after AAI administration. Staff will be made aware that the risks associated with delaying adrenaline are greater than those associated with administering it unnecessarily.

Upon arrival of the emergency services, the following information will be provided:

- Any known allergens the pupil has
- The possible causes of the reaction, e.g. certain food
- The time the AAI was administered – including the time of the second dose, if this was administered

Any used AAIs will be given to paramedics.

Staff members will ensure that the pupil is given plenty of space, moving other pupils to a different room where necessary.

Staff members will remain calm, ensuring that the pupil feels comfortable and is appropriately supported.

A member of staff will accompany the pupil to hospital in the absence of their parents.

If a pupil is taken to hospital by ambulance, two members of staff will accompany them if the parent is unavailable.

Following the occurrence of an allergic reaction, the SLT will review the adequacy of the school's response and will consider the need for any additional support, training or other corrective action.

13. Wellbeing of pupils with allergies

The school recognises that allergies can have a significant impact on a pupil's emotional wellbeing, confidence and sense of safety. Some pupils with allergies may experience anxiety because of the risk of exposure to allergens and the possibility of anaphylaxis. This may be further affected by related conditions such as asthma or eczema.

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The school will take active steps to support the wellbeing of pupils with allergies by providing reassurance that reasonable measures are being taken to reduce the risk of allergen exposure and that robust emergency arrangements are in place.

The school will promote a culture of awareness, inclusion and respect in relation to allergies. This will include regular communication with pupils, parents and staff so that the school community understands the risks associated with allergies and the importance of following control measures.

The school will take appropriate steps to prevent bullying, teasing or social exclusion related to allergies, dietary needs, medication or medical conditions. Any concerns of this nature will be addressed promptly in line with the school's Behaviour Policy and Anti-bullying Policy.

The school will, where appropriate, involve pupils with allergies and their parents in the development and review of support arrangements. The school will also consider feedback from staff and, where relevant, from other members of the school community in order to improve practice.

14. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed at least annually by the Headteacher and named member of the governing board.

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored and evaluated by all members of staff. Any concerns will be reported to the headteacher immediately.

Following each occurrence of an allergic reaction, this policy and pupils' IHPs will be updated and amended as necessary.

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Appendix

Pupil Allergy Individual Healthcare Plan

ALLERGY

Individual Healthcare Plan 2026-2027

Name	**DOB:**
Allergy	**Current Class**
Signs and Symptoms	**Causes:**

Actions to take: **FOR ANAPHYLAXIS**

Lay flat (if difficulty breathing, allow to sit)
Administer Auto Injector Device
Dial 999 and inform them of anaphylaxis
Follow instructions from responder

FOR MILD/MODERATE REACTION **ACTIONS**
Symptoms:-

Other important information:

RISK ASSESSMENT – Reducing risk:

Medication (incl dosage, side effects and storage. Other treatments, facilities, equipment, access to food and drink where it is used to manage a condition, dietary requirements and environmental needs.)

What arrangements or procedures are required during school trips and activities?

Has information from any other medical professionals been used to contribute to this plan?	**Y / N**
If so, who?	

Name of staff member writing plan:	
Signed:	
Date:	

Please note: Page 1 of this care plan will be shared with all staff and displayed on a designated display in the staffroom. The remaining information will be stored on the child's file and shared with the appropriate adults working with the child.

- I understand that the school holds spare adrenaline devices for use in an emergency.
- I provide advance consent for the school to administer a spare adrenaline device to my child.
- I understand that obtaining advance consent is good practice; however, prior consent is not required for a spare adrenaline device to be administered in an emergency. Where anaphylaxis is suspected, the absence of prior consent will not prevent or delay reasonable action being taken to save a life.

Parent name:	
Signed:	
Date:	

This plan will be reviewed at least annually OR when a parent informs us that their child's medical circumstances change, whichever is sooner.