



Highfield Primary School

Sandringham Green, Leeds, LS17 8DJ

Phone: 0113 293 0155

E-mail: admin@highfield.leeds.sch.uk

Headteacher: Jonathan Feeley

Deputy Head: Liz Bowker

Assistant Head: Jim Brassil

11th September 2026

RE: Allergy Safety – Information for Parents and Carers

Dear Parents and Carers,

From September 2026, all schools are required by law to have a dedicated allergy safety policy, to train all staff in allergy awareness and emergency response and to stock spare adrenaline auto-injectors (eg. EpiPens) for use in an emergency. This is commonly known as Benedict's Law, named after Benedict Blythe, who tragically lost his life to an allergic reaction at school.

I am writing to let you know what we have put in place at Highfield and to explain how you can help us keep every child safe, whether or not your child has an allergy - 30% of severe allergic reactions in school occur without a prior diagnosis. That is why this information is for everyone, not just those with known allergies.

As a school, we have:

- a dedicated Allergy Safety Policy, published on the school website (<https://highfield-primary.co.uk/key-information/policies/>);
- trained all staff in allergy awareness and emergency response, including how to recognise anaphylaxis and how to use an EpiPen;
- purchased spare EpiPens and spare asthma inhalers for the school office, Reception and School Club buildings, accessible to all staff at all times;
- developed Individual Healthcare Plans for every pupil with a known allergy that requires specific support;
- named the Headteacher as the Designated Allergy Safety Lead responsible for allergy safety across the school, supported by Mrs Calvert and the school office staff.





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If Your Child Has an Allergy

If your child has a known or suspected allergy – whether to food, insect stings, medication, latex or anything else – we need you to:

- Tell us. Please inform the school of any allergy at the point of admission and whenever your child's condition changes. If a new allergy is diagnosed during the school year, let us know straight away.
- Provide medication. If your child has been prescribed an adrenaline device (such as an EpiPen) or a reliever inhaler, please ensure they bring it to school every day, that it is in date, and that it is clearly labelled with their name.
- Work with us on their Individual Healthcare Plan. We will invite you to a meeting to agree the arrangements we will put in place for your child. This includes how we will reduce the risk of exposure to their allergens, what to do in an emergency, and how to ensure they are fully included in school life, including trips and mealtimes.

How Every Family Can Help

Allergy safety is not just about the children who have allergies – it depends on all of us. Any child could have a reaction for the first time while at school. The steps below help us reduce that risk for everyone.

Food Sent in from Home Packed lunches, snacks and drinks from home should be clearly labelled with your child's name. Please remind your child not to share or swap food, drinks or food containers with others, even if they are being kind. A food that is perfectly safe for your child could be dangerous for someone else.

Please ensure that you do not send food in your child's packed lunch that contains nuts, we are a nut free school.

Birthday Treats

I know that many children would wish to send in a treat for the class on their birthday. However, to help protect pupils with food allergies and other dietary needs, the school does not permit birthday treats, sweets or cakes to be distributed in the playground. We appreciate families' support in maintaining a safe and inclusive environment for all children. This may be disappointing but these simple steps make a real difference in keeping every child safe. We are grateful for your support.





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What to Do If You Are Concerned

If you believe your child may have an allergy, even if they have not yet received a formal diagnosis, please let us know. We will not dismiss your concerns. We will work with you to put appropriate arrangements in place while any medical investigation is under way.

If your child has an existing allergy and you feel the arrangements at school need to be reviewed, or if your child's condition has changed, please contact the school office to arrange a meeting.

The school's full Allergy Safety Policy is available on our website.

Thank you for your support in keeping all of our children safe. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Mr Feeley

Headteacher

