ALLERGY AND INTOLERANCE POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Langley Hall Arts Academy recognises that allergies and intolerances can have a significant impact on a pupil's health, wellbeing and ability to access education. Allergic reactions can range from mild discomfort to severe, life-threatening anaphylaxis, and therefore require careful management, vigilance and clear communication.

The Academy is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment in which pupils with allergies and intolerances are protected from harm, treated with dignity and supported to participate fully in all aspects of school life. This policy sets out the Academy's approach to identifying, managing and responding to allergies and intolerances and reflects our duty of care under safeguarding and health and safety legislation.

This policy should be read alongside the Medical Conditions Policy, First Aid Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedure, Staff Code of Conduct, SEND Policy and relevant policies.

This policy has been developed having regard to the Department for Education statutory guidance on supporting children and young people with medical conditions and allergies (September 2026), the Equality Act 2010, and relevant health and safety legislation.

The Academy recognises that allergy management forms part of its wider safeguarding, welfare and health and safety responsibilities and therefore maintains this standalone Allergy and Intolerance Policy in addition to its Medical Conditions Policy.

AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

At Langley Hall Arts Academy, the management of allergies and intolerances is underpinned by the principle that pupil safety is paramount. The school aims to reduce the risk of allergen exposure, respond appropriately to medical needs and ensure that pupils are not excluded or disadvantaged because of their condition.

The Academy seeks to work in close partnership with parents, carers, pupils and healthcare professionals in order to ensure that arrangements are clear, proportionate and consistently applied. Where pupils are developmentally able, they will also be supported to understand and manage their own medical needs safely.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The School

The Academy is responsible for maintaining accurate and up-to-date records of pupils with allergies or intolerances and for ensuring that appropriate care arrangements are in place. Where necessary, the school

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will develop Individual Healthcare Plans which clearly outline triggers, symptoms, medication requirements and emergency procedures.

The Academy will ensure that pupils with diagnosed allergies have an Individual Healthcare Plan and, where appropriate, a separate Allergy Action Plan. These plans will normally be developed in partnership with parents/carers and relevant healthcare professionals and reviewed at least annually or whenever circumstances change.

The Academy may utilise recognised allergy management documentation, including the British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology (BSACI) Allergy Action Plan template or equivalent recognised clinical documentation.

Medication, including adrenaline auto-injectors, will be stored safely and be readily accessible in accordance with medical guidance. The school will also put in place reasonable adjustments and risk assessments to reduce exposure to allergens, particularly during lessons, lunchtimes, trips and special events.

Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs)

The Academy recognises that rapid access to adrenaline may be critical in the event of anaphylaxis.

Pupils who have been prescribed an adrenaline auto-injector should provide the school with in-date medication in accordance with their Individual Healthcare Plan or Allergy Action Plan. Medication will be stored in an accessible location known to relevant staff and arrangements will be made to ensure it is available during educational visits, sporting activities and other off-site provision.

In addition to pupil-specific medication, the Academy will maintain emergency spare adrenaline auto-injectors on site in accordance with current legislation and guidance. The school will maintain an inventory of emergency devices and will monitor expiry dates regularly. Replacement arrangements will be implemented so that emergency devices remain available, in date and ready for use at all times.

The location of spare and pupil-specific adrenaline auto-injectors will be communicated to relevant staff through training, healthcare plans and emergency procedures.

Emergency medication will only be administered by staff who have received appropriate training or where this is necessary to preserve life or prevent serious deterioration whilst awaiting emergency assistance.

Staff

All staff have a duty of care to pupils with allergies and intolerances and must treat all medical information seriously. Staff are expected to familiarise themselves with relevant care plans, be alert to signs of allergic reactions and act promptly in accordance with agreed procedures.

Staff will receive allergy and anaphylaxis awareness training at least annually and more frequently where required. Training will include recognition of allergic reactions, recognition of anaphylaxis, emergency procedures, use of adrenaline auto-injectors, understanding Individual Healthcare Plans and Allergy Action Plans, and arrangements relating to school trips, educational visits and extracurricular activities.

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Pupils

Pupils are expected to behave responsibly and with consideration for others. This includes following safety guidance, not sharing food or drinks and informing a member of staff immediately if they feel unwell or believe they have come into contact with an allergen.

LHAA actively promotes understanding and respect so that pupils with allergies or intolerances feel safe, supported and included within the school community.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers play a vital role in supporting the safe management of allergies and intolerances. They are responsible for informing the school of any medical conditions, providing accurate information and ensuring that required medication is supplied, clearly labelled and within its expiry date.

Parents must notify the school immediately if there are any changes to their child's condition. The Academy values open communication and expects parents to work collaboratively with staff to ensure the best outcomes for their child.

FOOD, MEALTIMES AND SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The Academy takes reasonable steps to minimise the risk of allergen exposure during mealtimes and food-related activities. Catering staff are informed of dietary requirements, and practices aimed at reducing cross-contamination are followed.

Risk assessments are carried out for all off-site visits, practical lessons and special events. Adjustments will be made where necessary to ensure that pupils with allergies or intolerances can participate safely and confidently.

Catering staff, food handlers and other relevant personnel will be informed of dietary requirements and allergy risks relevant to their role. Appropriate measures will be implemented to reduce the risk of cross-contamination and allergen exposure.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In the event of a suspected allergic reaction, staff must act immediately and follow the pupil's Individual Healthcare Plan. If anaphylaxis is suspected, emergency services will be contacted without delay and emergency medication administered by trained staff.

Parents and senior leaders will be informed as soon as practicable, and the incident will be recorded in line with safeguarding and medical procedures.

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TRAINING, AWARENESS AND SAFEGUARDING

The Academy recognises that effective management of allergies and intolerances relies on staff confidence and awareness. Training will be provided at appropriate intervals, and pupils will be educated, age-appropriately, about allergy awareness and inclusion.

All allergic incidents are treated as safeguarding matters and monitored by senior leaders and the Designated Safeguarding Lead to identify patterns, risks or additional support needs.

This policy should be read alongside the Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedure, First Aid Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Medical Conditions Policy, Staff Code of Conduct and relevant policies. Concerns regarding allergy management, missing medication, unsafe practice or failure to follow agreed plans must be reported promptly through the school's safeguarding and reporting procedures.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if legislation, guidance or a significant incident requires it. The Principal and senior leadership team are responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of this policy and ensuring that it remains fit for purpose.

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