Canvey Primary School and Nursery

Whole-School Allergy Policy

(2026 Edition)

1. Policy Statement

Canvey Primary School and Nursery is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for all pupils, including those with allergies. The school recognises that allergies—particularly food allergies—can be life-threatening and require robust prevention, management, and emergency response procedures. This policy aligns with:

- **DfE "Allergy Guidance for Schools" (2025 update)**
- **Draft Mandatory Food Allergy Safety Guidance (Natasha Allergy Research Foundation, 2026)**
- **DfE consultation on supporting pupils with medical conditions (2026)**
- **Anaphylaxis UK best-practice guidance for schools**
- **Section 100, Children and Families Act 2014**, which places a duty on schools to support pupils with medical conditions.

2. Legal and Statutory Framework

2.1 Section 100, Children and Families Act 2014

Canvey Primary School and Nursery fully complies with **Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014**, which places a **legal duty** on all schools to make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions, including allergies. In fulfilling this duty, the school is committed to ensuring that:

- Pupils with allergies are **safe, supported, and fully included** in all aspects of school life.
- No pupil is denied access to education, school activities, trips, or wider opportunities because of a medical condition.
- The school works in **close partnership** with parents, pupils, healthcare professionals, and the local authority to ensure effective allergy management.
- **Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)** are created, implemented, and reviewed for pupils with significant allergies, detailing triggers, symptoms, medication, and emergency procedures.
- Staff receive **appropriate training**, including recognising allergic reactions and administering emergency medication such as adrenaline auto-injectors.

- Emergency arrangements are robust, clearly communicated, and ensure **immediate access** to medication at all times.
- The school's approach reflects the DfE statutory guidance *Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions at School* and the DfE *Allergy Guidance for Schools*.

Through these arrangements, Canvey Primary School and Nursery ensures that pupils with allergies can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally, and that their health needs are met with dignity, competence, and care.

2.2 DfE Guidance

The school follows:

- *Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions at School* (DfE)
- *Allergy Guidance for Schools* (DfE, 2025)
- *Mandatory Food Allergy Safety Guidance* (coming into force 2026)

2.3 Food Standards & PPDS Requirements

The school complies with:

- Food Information Regulations
- Natasha's Law (PPDS labelling)
- DfE requirements for safe menu substitutions and allergy-safe catering

3. Aims of This Policy

- Prevent exposure to allergens wherever reasonably possible.
- Ensure rapid, effective emergency response to allergic reactions.
- Promote whole-school allergy awareness.
- Ensure staff are trained, confident, and competent.
- Support pupils' physical safety, emotional wellbeing, and inclusion.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 Governing Body

- Ensures compliance with Section 100 duties.
- Approves and reviews the allergy policy annually.
- Ensures adequate funding for training and emergency equipment (e.g., spare AAIs).

4.2 Headteacher

- Ensures implementation of this policy.
- Ensures staff training is up to date.
- Oversees risk assessments and Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs).

4.3 School Staff

- Must know how to recognise allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
- Must know the location of emergency medication.
- Must follow pupils' IHPs and emergency procedures.

4.4 Parents/Carers

- Provide accurate medical information and updates.
- Supply prescribed medication in date and correctly labelled.
- Work with the school to develop IHPs.

4.5 Pupils

- Encouraged to understand their allergies (age-appropriate).
- Follow school rules regarding food sharing and safety.

5. Identification and Management of Pupils with Allergies

5.1 Notification

Parents must notify the school of any diagnosed or suspected allergy. The school will request medical evidence where appropriate.

5.2 Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

In line with DfE guidance on medical conditions :

- IHPs are created for all pupils with moderate to severe allergies.
- Plans include triggers, symptoms, medication, emergency steps, and responsibilities.
- Reviewed annually or sooner if conditions change.

5.3 Risk Assessments

Risk assessments will be completed for:

- Classrooms
- Dining hall

- Breakfast/after-school clubs
- School trips and residentials
- Special events (e.g., bake sales, fairs)

6. Allergen Avoidance and Prevention Measures

6.1 Whole-School Allergy Awareness

Following Anaphylaxis UK recommendations :

- Staff receive annual allergy awareness training.
- Pupils are taught about allergy safety, empathy, and anti-bullying.
- Food-allergy bullying is treated as a safeguarding concern.

6.2 Food Handling and Catering

In line with DfE food standards and allergy guidance :

- All catering staff receive allergy-specific training.
- Allergen information is clearly displayed for all meals.
- PPDS items follow Natasha's Law.
- Substitutions to menus must maintain allergy safety.
- No food sharing is permitted.
- "Treats from home" are discouraged unless pre-approved.

6.3 Classroom Practices

- Teachers must check IHPs before planning activities involving food or materials.
- Allergen-containing craft materials (e.g., nut-based bird feeders) are prohibited.
- Cleaning routines minimise cross-contamination.

6.4 School Events

- All events (sports day, fairs, discos) undergo allergy risk assessment.
- Allergy-safe zones and signage used where appropriate.

7. Emergency Response Procedures

7.1 Recognising an Allergic Reaction

Staff are trained to recognise:

- Mild/moderate symptoms (hives, swelling, stomach pain)

- Severe symptoms (breathing difficulty, throat tightness, collapse)

7.2 Emergency Medication

In line with proposed statutory guidance requiring spare AAIs in all schools :

- The school holds **spare emergency adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs)**. Medical room by the office.
- AAIs are stored in **clearly marked, unlocked, accessible** locations.
- Staff are trained to administer AAIs without delay.

7.3 Emergency Procedure

1. Administer AAI immediately if anaphylaxis is suspected.
2. Call 999 and state “anaphylaxis”.
3. Administer a second AAI after 5 minutes if symptoms persist.
4. Contact parents/carers.
5. Document the incident and review the IHP.

8. Staff Training

8.1 Mandatory Training

All staff receive:

- Annual allergy awareness training
- Practical AAI administration training
- Training on IHPs and emergency procedures

8.2 Additional Training

- Catering staff receive specialist food-allergy training.
- Trip leaders receive enhanced risk-assessment training.

9. Medication Management

- Parents must supply two in-date AAIs where prescribed.
- Medication is checked termly.
- Expired medication is returned to parents for replacement.

10. Inclusion, Wellbeing, and Anti-Bullying

- Pupils with allergies must be fully included in all school activities.

- Reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure participation.
- Allergy-related bullying is not tolerated and is addressed under the school's behaviour and safeguarding policies. (Anaphylaxis UK reports 32% of allergic children experience bullying, highlighting the need for proactive measures.)

11. Communication

- Allergy information is shared with relevant staff on a need-to-know basis.
- The school maintains secure records of allergies and IHPs.
- Parents are informed promptly of any incidents or concerns.

12. Monitoring and Review

- The policy is reviewed annually by the Governing Body.
- Incident reports are analysed to improve practice.
- Updates to DfE guidance or legislation are incorporated immediately.

13. Linked Policies

- Child Protection Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- SEND Policy
- Health & Safety Policy