The Rosary Catholic Primary School

Allergy Safety Policy

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Note: *This policy has been approved by the Board of Directors and applies to all schools within the MAC. Local Governing Bodies are responsible for reviewing the implementation of this policy annually, ensuring that school-specific arrangements remain accurate and that the policy is being applied effectively. The policy itself will be reviewed by the MAC in line with the review cycle, or sooner where changes to legislation or statutory guidance require amendment.*

1. Introduction

St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Multi Academy Company (the MAC) is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment in which every child is able to flourish. This model policy has been developed for adoption by all schools within the MAC. The Rosary Catholic Primary School recognises that children and young people with allergies have the right to participate fully in education and that schools have a duty to take reasonable and proportionate steps to safeguard them from avoidable harm.

This policy establishes a consistent approach to allergy management across all schools within our MAC and reflects the requirements of *Benedict's Law*, together with the Department for Education's statutory guidance on supporting pupils with medical conditions. It recognises that severe allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, are medical emergencies requiring immediate action, and that effective allergy management forms an integral part of each school's safeguarding responsibilities.

The purpose of this policy is not to create allergen-free schools, which is neither practical nor achievable, but to ensure that The Rosary Catholic Primary School adopts robust systems which minimise risk, promote inclusion and enable staff to respond confidently should an allergic reaction occur.

This policy should be read alongside other relevant school policies, including Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy, Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Health and Safety Policy, First Aid Policy and Educational Visits Policy.

2. Policy Statement

The Rosary Catholic Primary School believes that every pupil with an allergy should be able to attend school safely and participate fully in all aspects of school life. Effective allergy management depends upon strong leadership, well-informed staff, clear procedures and effective partnerships with parents, carers and healthcare professionals.

The Rosary Catholic Primary School will adopt a proactive approach to identifying pupils with allergies, assessing and reducing risk, maintaining accurate medical information and ensuring that staff understand their responsibilities. Allergy safety will be embedded within each school's safeguarding culture and will be treated with the same level of importance as any other significant medical need. The school will work in partnership with parents, carers, healthcare professionals and the wider MAC to ensure arrangements remain effective and proportionate to the needs of individual pupils.

3. Aims

Through this policy The Rosary Catholic Primary School will:

- safeguard pupils with diagnosed allergies;
- promote a consistent approach to allergy management;
- minimise the risk of exposure to known allergens where reasonably practicable;
- ensure staff are confident in recognising and responding to allergic reactions;
- support pupils to participate fully in all aspects of school life;
- foster effective partnerships between schools, families and healthcare professionals; and
- ensure compliance with statutory responsibilities.

4. Principles

The Rosary Catholic Primary School recognises that effective allergy management is based upon prevention, preparation and partnership. Every school will foster an allergy-aware culture in which staff understand the importance of reducing risk whilst ensuring that pupils with allergies are fully included within the life of the school.

Allergy management will form part of our wider safeguarding arrangements and will be supported through appropriate leadership oversight, regular staff training and effective communication with families. The Rosary Catholic Primary School will adopt a balanced and proportionate approach to managing risk, recognising that whilst allergens cannot always be removed entirely from the school environment, sensible precautions can significantly reduce the likelihood of serious incidents occurring.

Decisions relating to allergy management will always place the safety and wellbeing of pupils at their centre while ensuring that children are not unnecessarily excluded from educational experiences because of their medical needs.

5. Leadership and Governance

The MAC Board of Directors delegates responsibility for implementing this policy to the Headteacher of each school.

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for ensuring that this policy is implemented effectively. The Headteacher will ensure that effective systems are established to identify and support pupils with allergies, that Individual Healthcare Plans are developed where appropriate and regularly reviewed, and that staff receive appropriate training to fulfil their responsibilities confidently. The Headteacher will also ensure that emergency procedures are robust, prescribed medication is readily accessible and allergy management arrangements are regularly reviewed to ensure they remain effective.

The Headteacher will designate an appropriate member of the Senior Leadership Team to act as the school's Allergy Lead. The Allergy Lead will oversee the day-to-day implementation of this policy, coordinate staff training, maintain oversight of Individual Healthcare Plans, monitor the storage and availability of emergency medication, review allergy-related incidents and support the Headteacher in ensuring that allergy safety remains embedded within the school's safeguarding arrangements.

Governors will provide strategic oversight of allergy management and will seek assurance that the requirements of this policy are being implemented consistently. They will satisfy themselves that appropriate leadership, training, risk management and emergency procedures are in place and that allergy safety forms an integral part of the school's safeguarding and health and safety arrangements. Where significant incidents occur, governors will ensure that these are reviewed appropriately and that any lessons learned are reflected in future practice.

6. Working in Partnership

Successful allergy management depends upon close collaboration between schools, parents, carers, pupils and healthcare professionals.

Parents and carers will inform the school of any diagnosed allergy, provide prescribed medication and ensure that medical information remains accurate and up to date. They will work with the school in developing and reviewing Individual Healthcare Plans and will replace medication before it expires.

Schools will maintain open communication with families and healthcare professionals to ensure that support arrangements remain appropriate to each pupil's needs. As pupils mature, schools will encourage them to develop an age-appropriate understanding of their allergy, recognise symptoms and seek assistance immediately if they begin to feel unwell.

Every member of staff has a shared responsibility for maintaining a safe environment and responding appropriately should an allergic reaction occur.

7. Identification and Individual Healthcare Plans

The Rosary Catholic Primary School will maintain an accurate record of pupils with diagnosed allergies. Where a pupil is at risk of a significant allergic reaction, an Individual Healthcare Plan will be developed in partnership with parents and, where appropriate, healthcare professionals.

Healthcare Plans will clearly identify the pupil's allergens, the signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction, prescribed medication, emergency procedures and the responsibilities of those involved in supporting the

pupil. Plans will be reviewed at least annually and whenever there is a significant change in a pupil's medical needs or following an allergic incident.

Relevant information will be shared with staff who have responsibility for the pupil, whilst ensuring that personal information is managed in accordance with data protection legislation.

8. Wellbeing and Inclusion

The Rosary Catholic Primary School recognises that living with an allergy can affect a pupil's confidence, wellbeing and participation in school life. The school will foster an inclusive culture in which pupils with allergies are supported, respected and able to participate fully in learning and wider school activities. Any bullying, teasing or inappropriate behaviour relating to a pupil's allergy will be addressed promptly through the school's behaviour and anti-bullying procedures.

9. Managing Risk

The Rosary Catholic Primary School will take reasonable and proportionate steps to minimise the risk of allergen exposure whilst maintaining an inclusive learning environment.

Risk management will form part of everyday practice and will be considered whenever activities are planned, including classroom learning, food technology, science, educational visits, residential experiences, extracurricular activities and wraparound care.

Where activities involve food or other known allergens, staff will consider the needs of individual pupils and make appropriate adjustments to reduce unnecessary risk. The school will work closely with catering providers to ensure that allergen information is accurate, that food allergy procedures are understood and that appropriate arrangements are in place to minimise the risk of cross-contamination. The school will also take reasonable steps to manage the risks associated with food brought into school by pupils, parents, staff and visitors where this may present a risk to individuals with known food allergies.

Where pupils have known allergies to airborne or contact allergens, the school will take reasonable and proportionate steps to minimise the risk of exposure, taking account of the individual needs of the pupil and the activities being undertaken.

Educational visits and residential experiences will include consideration of allergy management as part of the visit risk assessment. Individual risk assessments will be completed where appropriate to ensure that pupils with allergies are able to participate safely. Medication, emergency procedures and staff responsibilities will be clearly identified before any visit takes place.

The school recognises that it is neither practical nor possible to create an allergen-free environment. Instead, The Rosary Catholic Primary School will adopt a sensible, evidence-informed and proportionate approach that reduces risk, promotes awareness and enables pupils with allergies to participate fully and safely in all aspects of school life.

10. Awareness among Pupils

The Rosary Catholic Primary School will promote age-appropriate awareness of allergies amongst pupils to foster understanding, respect and safe behaviours. Where appropriate, and in consultation with the pupil and their parents or carers, classmates may be provided with appropriate information to support an effective emergency response and help create a safe, inclusive and supportive school environment.

11. Equality and Inclusion

The Rosary Catholic Primary School recognises that some pupils with allergies may be disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010. The school will make reasonable adjustments where required to ensure that pupils with allergies are able to access education and participate fully in school life without being placed at a substantial disadvantage.

12. Medication

The Rosary Catholic Primary School will ensure that prescribed emergency medication is readily accessible whenever required and that staff know where medication is stored. Medication will not be kept in locations where access could be delayed during an emergency.

In accordance with current legislation and statutory guidance, the school will maintain spare adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) for emergency use where appropriate. Emergency adrenaline auto-injectors will be stored in clearly identified, readily accessible locations that enable them to be administered as quickly as possible and, wherever practicable, within five minutes of an emergency arising. Spare adrenaline auto-injectors will be stored in pairs and will be monitored regularly to ensure they remain in date, fit for use and available at all times.

The Rosary Catholic Primary School will maintain appropriate records of prescribed and spare emergency medication and will undertake regular checks to ensure medication remains available and in date. Parents and carers will be notified in sufficient time to replace prescribed medication before it expires.

Where pupils are prescribed emergency medication, arrangements will be made to ensure it is readily available throughout the school day, during educational visits, residential experiences and any other school activities.

13. Staff Training

The school recognises that confident and knowledgeable staff are essential to effective allergy management.

All staff who may work with pupils, including permanent staff, temporary staff, supply teachers, agency staff, peripatetic staff, regular volunteers and others with pupil-facing responsibilities, will receive allergy awareness training appropriate to their role. Staff who may reasonably be expected to administer emergency medication will also receive practical training in the use of adrenaline auto-injectors using trainer devices.

Training will be provided as part of staff induction, refreshed at least annually and updated whenever changes to legislation, statutory guidance or school procedures require additional learning.

Annual allergy awareness training will ensure that staff:

- understand the nature of allergic conditions and their potential impact on pupils' health and wellbeing;
- can recognise the signs and symptoms of allergic reactions and anaphylaxis;
- understand how to reduce the risk of allergen exposure and minimise avoidable risks;
- know how to access and use Individual Healthcare Plans and Allergy Action Plans;
- understand the school's emergency procedures, including the location and administration of emergency medication;
- know how to report allergy incidents and near misses.

The school will maintain accurate records of all allergy-related training undertaken by staff and will monitor compliance to ensure that training remains current.

14. Emergency Response

The Rosary Catholic Primary School will maintain clear procedures for responding to allergic reactions and anaphylaxis. All staff will understand that anaphylaxis is a life-threatening medical emergency requiring an immediate response.

Where a pupil is suspected of experiencing anaphylaxis, staff will administer an adrenaline auto-injector without delay in accordance with their training and the pupil's Individual Healthcare Plan or Allergy Action Plan. Emergency services will be contacted immediately by calling 999, parents or carers will be informed as soon as reasonably practicable, and the pupil will be continuously monitored and will not be left

unattended until responsibility is transferred to healthcare professionals. Where clinically indicated and in accordance with training, a second adrenaline auto-injector will be administered if required.

Following the administration of adrenaline, the pupil must be taken to hospital for further assessment and observation, even if symptoms appear to have improved.

Following any allergic incident or near miss, The Rosary Catholic Primary School will review the circumstances, identify any lessons learned and, where appropriate, update Individual Healthcare Plans, risk assessments and school procedures to strengthen future practice.

15. Communication and Record Keeping

The Rosary Catholic Primary School will maintain accurate and up-to-date records relating to pupils with allergies, Individual Healthcare Plans, Allergy Action Plans (where applicable), prescribed and spare emergency medication, staff training and allergy-related incidents.

Information relating to a pupil's allergy will be shared with staff on a need-to-know basis to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities safely whilst ensuring compliance with data protection legislation. The school will ensure that personal information is handled sensitively and securely, recognising that medical information constitutes special category personal data.

The school will maintain effective communication with parents and carers, healthcare professionals, catering providers, educational visit leaders and any external organisations delivering activities on behalf of the school to ensure that allergy management arrangements remain consistent across all aspects of school life.

Where appropriate, and with due regard to the wishes of the pupil and their parents or carers, relevant information may also be shared with other pupils to promote understanding, support inclusion and assist with an effective emergency response.

16. Monitoring and Review

The Headteacher and Allergy Lead will monitor the implementation of this policy through regular review of Individual Healthcare Plans, medication records, staff training, allergy-related incidents, near misses and school procedures to ensure that arrangements remain effective and reflect current best practice.

The MAC will periodically review compliance across all schools to promote consistency, provide assurance and identify opportunities for continuous improvement. Significant incidents and near misses will be reviewed to identify lessons learned and strengthen allergy management across the MAC.

This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner where changes to legislation, statutory guidance or local circumstances require amendment. The current version of the policy will be published on the school's website and made available to parents, carers and other stakeholders upon request.