Vernham Dean Gillum's Church of England Primary School
Allergy and Anaphylaxis Policy

Vision Statement
Our vision is to develop "**Courageous, Compassionate, Creative citizens for the future**," reflecting the high standards and aspirations we hold for everyone in our school community. Through our engaging and inclusive curriculum, we ensure that every pupil—including those with severe allergies—is kept safe, supported, and fully included in all aspects of school life.

Statement of Intent
Vernham Dean Gillum's CE Primary School treats allergy management as a **whole-school safeguarding responsibility** rather than solely a catering or medical concern.

In memory of Benedict Blythe and aligning with DfE statutory duties under Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 (Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions) and the Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations, this policy sets out a proactive approach to allergy safety, emergency response, allergen reduction, and pupil inclusion.

This policy is a **standalone document** reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team and Governing Board.

Key Roles & Responsibilities
- **Designated Allergy Lead (SLT Member)**: A named member of the Senior Leadership Team oversees policy implementation, checks emergency equipment, monitors Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs), and tracks "near miss" reports.

- **All Staff (Teaching, Support, Admin, Catering, Clubs)**: Mandatory obligation to complete annual allergy and anaphylaxis training, recognize signs of allergic reactions, and know the exact location of Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs).

- **Parents/Carers**: Obligated to inform the school immediately of any known or suspected allergies, provide prescribed, in-date AAIs/medication, and co-create/review their child's Individual Healthcare Plan.

- **Governing Board**: Responsible for annual policy reviews and monitoring school-wide compliance with statutory requirements.

Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) & Records
1. **Mandatory IHPs**: Any pupil with an allergy that presents a functional impact or safety risk will have an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP). A formal clinical diagnosis is not required to establish an IHP if a clear risk is identified.

2. **Central Accessibility**: IHPs and allergy profiles are securely stored in the medical room, staff room, and kitchen, while remaining immediately accessible to teaching staff and supply teachers.

3. **Annual & Ongoing Review**: IHPs are reviewed annually or immediately following any change in the child's medical condition or following a "near miss" event.

Emergency Response & Spare AAIs
- **5-Minute Rule**: In accordance with Benedict's Law, emergency protocols ensure that an Adrenaline Auto-Injector can be fetched and administered within 5 minutes of symptom onset anywhere on the school site.

- **Spare Emergency AAIs**: The school maintains a stock of generic, spare AAIs for emergency use if a pupil's prescribed device fails, is unavailable, or if a child suffers a severe reaction for the first time (where consent/statutory allowance applies).

- **Storage & Checking**: AAIs are stored in clearly labelled, unlocked, and easily accessible locations (not locked in cupboards). Expiry dates are audited monthly by the Designated Lead.

- **Emergency Protocol (Call 999)**:
    1. Administer AAI without delay if signs of anaphylaxis are present.
    2. Call 999 immediately and state "Anaphylaxis".
    3. Keep the child lying flat (or seated if breathing is difficult); do not stand them up.
    4. Contact parents/carers.
    5. If symptoms do not improve after 5 minutes, administer a second AAI.

Whole-Staff Training & Awareness

- **Mandatory Training**: All staff on site during operational hours (teachers, TAs, administrative personnel, lunch covers, cleaners, and wraparound care staff) must complete accredited allergy and anaphylaxis training annually.
- **Cover & Supply Staff**: A concise allergy summary sheet and emergency instructions are provided to all supply teachers and trip supervisors upon arrival.
- **Catering Staff**: Dedicated catering personnel complete specialized food allergen awareness, cross-contamination, and labelling training.

Inclusion, Curriculum & Risk Reduction

To build "Courageous, Compassionate, Creative citizens," pupils with allergies will be kept safe without being excluded from school life:

- **Educational Activities**: Cooking lessons, science experiments, art projects, and craft materials are screened in advance to ensure alternative, safe ingredients/materials are used.
- **School Trips & Off-Site Events**: Risk assessments are completed prior to all trips. Nominated first aiders carry the pupil's prescribed AAIs and a spare emergency kit.
- **Tackling Bullying**: Allergic conditions are treated with empathy. Using an allergen to threaten, tease, or bully a child is classified as a severe disciplinary breach under the school's Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies.
- **Allergen Awareness in Dining**: Strict food preparation practices avoid cross-contamination. Food trading/sharing between pupils is strictly prohibited.

Near-Miss & Incident Reporting

- Every allergic reaction or "near miss" (e.g., an allergen accidentally introduced to a plate or classroom) must be logged using the school's Incident Reporting System.
- The SLT Designated Lead conducts a post-incident review to update risk assessments and refine procedures.

Date of Policy Update: September 2026
Date of Review: September 2027

Signed:  Dated: 24th September 2026

Ian Hickman – Executive Headteacher

Signed:  Dated: Dated: 24th September 2026

Paul Nicoll – Chair of Governors