



LOSTOCK HALL PRIMARY

Allergy Policy

1. Aims and Introduction

This Allergy Policy sets out how our school, Lostock Hall Primary, supports children with allergies, reduces risks, and ensures a safe and inclusive environment. Food allergies affect many children nationally, and serious reactions, including anaphylaxis, may occur in school settings. Schools have a duty under Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 to support children with medical conditions, including allergies.

With new mandatory allergy safety guidance due to come into force in September 2026 (Benedict's Law), all schools will be expected to have robust allergy policies, trained staff, and access to emergency medication.

2. Legal and Statutory Responsibilities

Lostock Hall Primary School complies with:

- s.100 Children and Families Act 2014, requiring schools to support children with medical conditions.
- Food Information Regulations 2014, requiring allergen information for all food served on-site.
- DfE Allergy Guidance for Schools (updated 2025), which provides practical expectations on managing allergies safely.
- Forthcoming mandatory DfE statutory allergy guidance (Benedict's Law) from September 2026, requiring whole-school allergy policies and access to emergency AAls.

3. Lostock Hall Primary School's Commitment

We are committed to:

- Providing a clear, whole-school Allergy Policy as expected by future statutory guidance.
- Creating an allergy-aware culture across classrooms at break times, the hall at lunchtimes, and all school activities, including off site school trips.
- Ensuring children with allergies participate fully in school life without discrimination.
- Acknowledging that not all allergies are food based and can be medical or environmental too.

4. Identifying and Managing Allergies

4.1 Notification of Allergies

Parents/carers must inform the school of allergies on admission forms and throughout the school year. This aligns with recommendations for proactive communication in primary settings.

If a child voices they have an allergy or suspected allergy, Lostock Hall Primary School will follow this up with their parents and carers for confirmation.

Whilst suspected allergies are under investigation by medical professionals, Lostock Hall Primary School will avoid, where possible and known, the child's contact with suspected substances. Families would be encouraged to bring packed lunches for their child whilst awaiting medical confirmation.

4.2 Allergy Action Plans

Each child with a diagnosed allergy will have an Allergy Action Plan, completed with healthcare professionals and families, detailing symptoms, triggers, emergency steps, and medication instructions. This follows national best practice and Allergy UK model policy guidance.

The school will seek permission from parents/carers to attach a photo of their child to the allergy action plan and to our wall displays in the staff room, kitchen and child's classroom, assisting the staff with easy identification and recognition.

5. Preventing Exposure to Allergens

5.1 Catering and Food Controls

Lostock Hall Primary works closely with Chartwells' catering staff to ensure allergen information is available and accurate, as required by the Food Information Regulations 2014.

Any menu substitutions or supply changes through Chartwells will continue to meet the dietary needs of children with allergies. Where a medical diet has not been agreed between Chartwells and the child's family but an allergy is suspected, the child will be served a basic menu until the correct diet is in place.

Lostock Hall Primary School does not give out any food items to avoid allergen exposure and to treat all children with equity.

5.2 Classroom & School Environment

Efforts will be made to minimise allergen exposure (e.g., controlling nuts if advised, careful planning of activities involving food e.g. curriculum cooking lessons, breaks and lunchtimes, especially wet playtime when children are kept inside in close contact with food products brought from home).

No food sharing is permitted and clearly labelled water bottles are requested within the classroom to avoid cross contamination.

Allergen-aware rules apply to clubs, trips, and after-school activities, consistent with our school allergy policy principles.

Nut aware signs are on all external exits to act as a visual prompt to children, staff, families and carers.

Notifications appear on school communications to act as a reminder to the wider community, families and staff and to raise awareness about nut allergies in school. All children in the class of a child where a severe allergy is present are required to wash their hands at the end of break or lunchtime to avoid contamination and reduce risk.

5.3 Before & After School Club

Our wraparound provision follows the same policy and procedures as the school with the exception of food provisions. All food is checked for allergens before being purchased and subsequently prepared.

Staff are trained and aware of the children with allergies who may access the provision, care is taken not to expose the child to known allergens and to ensure children are regularly washing their hands before and after food.

A visual display board of photos of children with allergies is displayed on the fridge in Before and After School Club to identify those children who have allergies.

All staff have seen the Allergy Action Plans of those children in their care and have undertaken paediatric first aid training in addition to allergy training.

5.4 Preschool Provision

Our preschool provision follows the same policy and procedures as the main school does with the exception of food provisions. All food is checked for allergens before being purchased and subsequently prepared.

Staff are trained and aware of the children who may access the provision with an allergy, care is taken not to expose the child to known allergen and to ensure children are regularly washing their hands before and after food.

A visual display board of photos of children with allergies is displayed in Before and After School Club, where preschool access their snacks, to identify those children who have allergies.

All staff have seen the Allergy Action Plans of those children in their care and have undertaken paediatric first aid training in addition to allergy training.

As preschool children are younger and often allergies are yet to be diagnosed, staff are extra vigilant, looking for signs of potential allergies and higher ratios of supervision are adhered to with early years children.

6. Staff Training

- All staff will receive annual allergy and anaphylaxis training, including how to recognise symptoms and administer AAls, delivered by an external professional, Macclesfield Hospital's allergy nurse.
- Training aligns with expectations under Benedict's Law and guidance from Anaphylaxis UK and AllergyWise® courses.
- Briefing notes and training resources will be made available throughout the year to any staff upon request or to new members of staff before annual training takes place.

- Allergy policy and awareness is made part of Lostock Hall's induction document and training.
- As part of morning briefing sessions and staff meetings, at least once a term, staff will practice with the training Auto-Injector pens.
- Should an Auto-Injector pen be prescribed to a child and if staff were in any doubt, they are trained and taught to always administer if anaphylaxis is suspected.

7. Emergency Response & Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs)

- The school will maintain readily accessible spare emergency AAIs, as recommended in the new statutory guidance and allergy model policies. These are stored on the staff room wall and are clearly labelled. The spare pens are kept away from the radiator for optimum effectiveness.
- Staff will follow clear emergency steps, as per the child's Allergy Action Plan (assessment, administration of AAI, calling 999, contacting family).
- AAIs will be stored safely, within the PPA room, within the medicines cabinet, accessible to all and clearly labelled by year group and photo. This is quickly accessible, with regular checks for expiry dates and location labeling.

8. Reducing Bullying and Stigma

Lostock Hall Primary has a zero-tolerance stance on allergy-related bullying, consistent with guidance from Allergy UK and Anaphylaxis UK. Awareness activities and open communication are essential to creating a safe and supportive environment.

9. Communication with Families

- Parents/carers will be contacted promptly regarding concerns, incidents, or medication issues.
- The school will maintain regular dialogue with families to review care plans annually and ensure confidence in allergy management processes, as recommended by Anaphylaxis UK.
- Whilst Lostock Hall Primary School is mindful to remind families, parents and carers about expired medication, it is the responsibility of the family to provide correct medication which is in date and supports their child's Allergy Action Plan.

10. Risk Assessments

Risk assessments will be carried out for:

- School trips
- PE/sports events
- Classroom activities e.g. crafting and bird feeders
- Events involving food e.g. class baking

These assessments follow best practice described in the DfE guidance, Anaphylaxis UK primary school guidance, and allergy model policies.

11. Monitoring and Review

- This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if guidance changes (including the implementation of the new statutory guidance in 2026).

- Staff, parents, governors, and healthcare partners may contribute feedback to ensure continuous improvement, as encouraged by national allergy policy models.

Dated: March 2026

Review date: March 2027