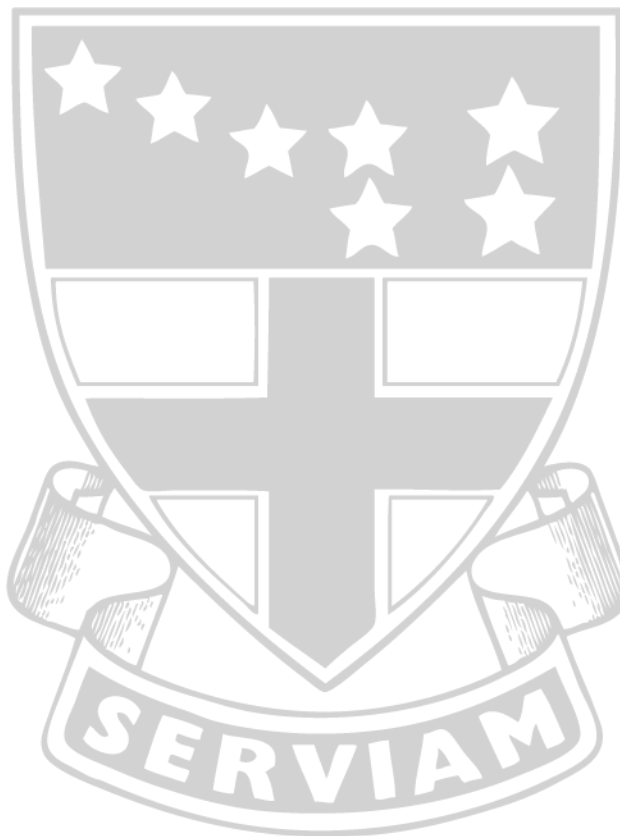




SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH ALLERGIES POLICY (BENEDICT'S LAW)



Date of Next Review: July 2027

The following policy is designed to fully support students (and staff) with allergies in line with Benedict's Law which is part of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act that comes into effect in September 2026. This policy also falls under the school's 'Supporting Students with Medical Conditions' Policy (July 2026).

Purpose

- To improve the safety in school of students with known allergies.
- The new policy should be reviewed annually.

Scope of policy

This policy will be applicable to all students and staff of St Angela's Ursuline School both on and off site who are known to have diagnosed allergies and are at risk of experiencing moderate to severe reactions and/or who have had previous episodes of anaphylaxis.

Procedure and responsibilities

Parents/carers must inform the school of all **medically diagnosed allergies** and supply prescribed medications to the school which must be received by the **Medical Welfare Officer (MWO)** and matched against school health care plans where written consent for administration must be obtained.

A clinical letter from the medical team or GP if available, should be sent into school for recording onto SIMS.

A list of all diagnosed allergies must be recorded on SIMS.

An updated list of diagnosed allergies must be circulated to the following staff and departments:

- Heads of Year
- Catering/kitchen staff
- Food Technology staff
- Physical Education (PE) staff
- Visit Leaders

Out of school, Visit Leaders must forward a list of students attending to MWO to ensure that medications are taken with the first aid kit as necessary.

Once medication is received in school, the MWO will contact the School Health Team for an Individual Care Plan (ICP) to be written. This is sent to MWO who will forward to the parent/carer for their signature. The parents have the responsibility to ensure the signed care plan is returned as soon as possible back to MWO as this permits staff to administer medication, including auto adrenaline injectors (Epipen).

- Children who have an Epipen on their person during school time must be identified to MWO and teaching staff.
- Epipen user status must be recorded on SIMS.

- Parents/carers are responsible for sending two spare Epipens into school. These are kept in named pouches in a drawer monitored by MWO which is locked after school hours. The MWO is responsible for ensuring that at least two spare epipens are kept in school. These will be kept in the Main Office on the wall in the Asthma box.
- The MWO is responsible for checking expiry dates and condition of medication on a regular basis and informing parents or carers when new epipens are required (on expiry, discoloration or use).

Definitions

This policy covers those students who have had their allergies diagnosed and/or treated previously by a medical team in hospital, or their GP.

Training

This is provided both online and face to face and is available to all staff:

- Asthma and Allergy Awareness - online course (1 hour).
- Management of Allergies and Anaphylaxis (including use of Epipens) - face to face course (3 hours)

Allergic Reactions - Mild

Signs and symptoms may include:

- hives or rash
- swelling of the face, lips or eyes
- abdominal pain and/or vomiting

Any over the counter medication held by the school in the student's name must be administered, if required with parental/carer written consent.

Mild symptoms may self reverse with application of cold pack to affected area or with a dose of named anti- histamine medication . The student is to be monitored at all times and must not be left alone.

MWO /First Aider to contact parent /carer to update them.

Students may be sent home - depending on how they are feeling once the symptoms have subsided. If students remain in school, they must be monitored for a relapse of symptoms for the rest of the day. MWO will alert the relevant staff according to the student's timetable for the day.

Allergic Reactions - Severe (Anaphylaxis)

Signs and symptoms may include

- swelling of tongue
- difficulty or noisy breathing
- difficulty in talking /hoarse voice
- wheeze or persistent cough
- persistent dizziness or collapse

First responders should call 999 immediately and **state anaphylaxis to the 999 call handler**. Teaching staff must call for MWO or First Aid and state clearly the **students name** and **nature of assistance required for anaphylaxis** to enable additional Epipens in the students name to be brought to the location.

Ensure the student/staff member is laid down.

If the student /staff member is able to do so - they should be supported to administer their Epipen.

If the student/staff member is unable to administer the Epipen to themselves this must be administered to them by MWO, First Aider or anyone who has been trained how to do this without delay.

Time of administration of Epipen to be recorded and vial kept to be handed over to paramedics once they arrive.

The student/staff who is experiencing anaphylaxis should never be left alone and must be monitored throughout the episode until the paramedic crew are with the student or member of staff.

MWO/First Aider must always contact parents/carers/next of kin, to keep them updated with paramedic response treatment given and onward journey to the Emergency Department.



Monitoring

This Policy is monitored by the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team of St Angela's Ursuline School. Specialist staff related to the policy area also monitor its use and suitability making recommendations for development when the need arises.

Evaluation

The evaluation of the effectiveness of this policy is undertaken by the Governing Body of St Angela's Ursuline School as set at Governing Body meetings within a framework of annual/biannual compliance checks