

Allergy and Anaphylaxis Policy

Blackbird Creative Arts Ltd

Date Reviewed: 8th September 2026 **Date for Next Review:** September 2027

Reviewed By: Jade Sloan

Signed:



1. Introduction Blackbird Creative Arts Ltd is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all students, staff, and visitors who suffer from allergies. This policy works in conjunction with our **First Aid Policy** and **Medication Policy** to ensure a robust, coordinated response to allergic reactions and anaphylaxis within our Alternative Provision.

2. Identifying and Recording Allergies

Admissions Process: Before a student begins their placement, the referring school and the parents/carers must provide full details of any known allergies, triggers, and required medication on the admissions paperwork.

Allergy Register: The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) maintains a central, confidential Allergy Register. All staff working with the students are briefed on this register and made aware of any severe allergies prior to the student's first session.

Care Plans: Students with severe allergies at risk of anaphylaxis must have an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHCP) provided by the referring school or medical professional, detailing their specific symptoms and emergency response.

3. Environmental and Food Management Blackbird Creative Arts operates as an "Allergy Aware" environment. We do not claim to be a completely allergen-free or "nut-free" premises, as this cannot be guaranteed. To minimise risks, we enforce the following:

Targeted Restrictions: If a student is admitted with a severe contact or airborne allergy, we will communicate specific, temporary food restrictions to all parents, carers, and students to protect that individual.

Lunch and Snacks: As students bring their own packed lunches and snacks, staff will closely monitor break times to ensure students do not share food or drinks. Handwashing before and after eating is actively encouraged.

Creative Materials: Staff will risk-assess all materials used in creative and dramatic arts workshops (e.g., face paints, sensory materials, food-based props) against the current Allergy Register to prevent accidental exposure.

4. Storage and Access to Medication (Auto-Injectors/EpiPens)

As outlined in our **Medication Policy**, students prescribed an Adrenaline Auto-Injector (AAI), such as an EpiPen, must have it with them at all times while attending the provision.

Storage: AAI's must *never* be locked away. They must be easily accessible to the student and staff at all times. Depending on the student's age and maturity, they may carry it on their person, or it will be kept securely but visibly at the staff desk in the teaching room.

Responsibility: It is the responsibility of the parents/carers to ensure that the medication provided is in date and clearly labelled with the student's name.

5. Emergency Procedures (Anaphylaxis Response) Anaphylaxis is a severe, life-threatening allergic reaction. If a student shows signs of anaphylaxis (e.g., difficulty breathing, swelling of the face/throat, sudden extreme anxiety, collapsing):

Summon Immediate Help: A staff member will immediately use the two-way radio to summon the designated Darlington Hippodrome First Aider to the room.

Call 999: A second staff member will dial 999 immediately, stating "Anaphylaxis."

Administer Medication: If the student has an AAI, they should be encouraged to self-administer it. If they are unable to do so, a staff member (or the arriving First Aider) will assist in administering the auto-injector in line with the student's care plan and emergency dispatcher instructions.

Positioning: The student should be kept lying down with their legs raised (or sitting up slightly if they are struggling to breathe). They must not stand up.

Notification: The DSL or Company Director will contact the parents/carers and the referring school immediately once the ambulance has been called.

Recording: The incident will be fully documented in the Accident Book, and all relevant external bodies will be notified.