

Allergies and Allergic Reactions

At Snowdrop Cottage we are aware that children may have or develop an allergy resulting in an allergic reaction. Our aims are to ensure allergic reactions are minimised or, where possible, prevented and that staff are fully aware of how to support a child who may be having an allergic reaction.

Our procedures

- Our staff are made aware of the signs and symptoms of a possible allergic reaction in case of an unknown or first reaction in a child. These may include a rash or hives, nausea, stomach pain, diarrhoea, itchy skin, runny eyes, shortness of breath, chest pain, swelling of the mouth or tongue, swelling to the airways to the lungs, wheezing and anaphylaxis. Staff are trained in appropriate treatments for allergies and anaphylaxis, the differences between allergies and intolerances and that children can develop allergies at any time, especially during the introduction of solid foods.
- Before a child is admitted to the setting we obtain information about special dietary requirements, preferences, food allergies and intolerances that the child has
- We have ongoing discussions with parents and, where appropriate, health professionals to develop allergy plans for managing any known allergies and intolerances. We ask parents to inform staff of any allergies or intolerances discovered after registration
- We ask parents to share all information about allergic reactions and allergies on child's registration form and to inform staff of any allergies discovered after registration. These allergies will be recorded on an Allergy Care Plan that contains all necessary information around their individual reactions and responses needed.
- Each room will display photos of the children along with their known allergies where applicable.
- The manager, nursery cook and parents will work together to ensure a child with specific food allergies receives no food at nursery that may harm them. This may include designing an appropriate menu or substituting specific meals on the current nursery menu
- Seating will be monitored for children with allergies. Where deemed appropriate, staff will sit with children who have allergies and where age/stage appropriate staff will discuss food allergies and the potential risks
- If a child has an allergic reaction a first-aid trained member of staff will act quickly and administer the appropriate treatment, where necessary. We will inform parents and record the information on an accident form.
- If an allergic reaction requires specialist treatment, e.g. an EpiPen, then at least two members of staff working directly with the child and the manager will receive specific medical training to be able to administer the treatment to each individual child.

Food Information Regulations (FIR) 2014

We incorporate additional procedures in line with the FIR, including displaying our weekly menus within each room and a full menu within the kitchen identifying any of the 14 allergens that are used as ingredients in any of our dishes.

In the event of a serious allergic reaction and a child needing transporting children to hospital the nursery manager/staff member must:

- Call for an ambulance immediately if the allergic reaction is severe. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your own vehicle
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- Arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to accompany the child, taking with them any relevant information such as contact information, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter.
- Redeploy staff if necessary to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together.
- Inform a member of the management team immediately.
- Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. Staff may also require additional support following the accident.
- Where serious incident occurs and a child requires hospital treatment, Ofsted will be informed.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
September 2025	<i>L Jones</i>	September 2026