



SAINT NORBERT'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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Mission Statement: To live, love and learn in the footprints of Jesus.

23rd September 2026

Dear Families,

With the introduction of the Department for Education's new statutory guidance, schools are now required to strengthen the support they provide for pupils with allergies.

The management of allergies in schools is not a new issue. Around 1 in 13 children has a food allergy, for example – that's approximately 2 children in every classroom – and 1 in 5 will experience an allergic reaction at school. It is also estimated that around 30% of allergic reactions in schools occur in children whose allergy was previously unknown or had not been communicated to staff, highlighting the importance of robust allergy procedures and staff training.

At St Norbert's, we have:

- Trained all members of staff in allergy awareness and emergency response, including how to recognise anaphylaxis and how to use an EpiPen®;
- Obtained spare Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (EpiPen®) that can be used in emergency situations;
- Created a dedicated Allergy Safety Policy. This can be viewed on the school website here: <https://www.stnorbertscrowle.co.uk/information/our-policies/> ;
- Reviewed arrangements for the management of Individual Health Care plans and emergency action plans;
- Worked in partnership with school catering to ensure all necessary procedures are in place.

If your child has a known or suspected allergy – whether to food or anything else, we need you to:

- Tell us. Please inform the school of any allergy at the point of admission and whenever your child's condition changes. If a new allergy is diagnosed during the school year, let us know straight away;
- Work with us on his/her Individual Healthcare Plan. We will invite you to a meeting to agree the arrangements we will put in place for your child. This includes how we will reduce the risk of exposure to his/her allergens, what to do in an emergency, and how to ensure that he/she is fully included in school life, including trips and mealtimes;
- Provide medication. If your child has been prescribed an adrenaline device (such as an EpiPen) or a reliever inhaler, please ensure that he/she brings it to school every day, that it is in date, and that it is clearly labelled with his/her name;

- Take devices home. At the end of each day, please ensure that your child takes their prescribed adrenaline device home so that they have it for the journey (unless you have another identical device available). At the end of each term, please check the expiry date and arrange a replacement with your GP if needed.

Allergy safety is not just about the children who have allergies – it depends on all of us. Parents / carers are reminded to:

- Refrain from telling the school their child has an allergy or intolerance if this is a preference or dietary choice;
- Avoid sending in birthday or celebration treats;
- Clearly label with your child's name packed lunches, snacks and drinks from home. Please remind your child not to share or swap food, drinks or food containers with others, even if trying to be kind. A food that is perfectly safe for your child could be dangerous for someone else.

If you believe that your child may have an allergy, even if he/she has not yet received a formal diagnosis, please let us know. We will not dismiss your concerns. We will work with you to put appropriate arrangements in place while any medical investigation is under way.

If your child has an existing allergy and you feel the arrangements at school need to be reviewed, or if your child's condition has changed, please contact the school office to arrange a meeting.

If you have any questions about allergy safety, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your support in keeping all our children safe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Dawson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'A' and 'D'.

A Dawson