

Frequently Asked Questions



> Parents

Q. I am worried about my child having school dinners but why can't they know what my child is allergic to and give food that doesn't contain that allergen?

A. Parents are responsible for supplying the school staff and caterers with required information about their child's allergy. The school should ensure that the caterers and other staff have sufficient training in food allergy management. There is now legislation around food labelling of 14 allergens.

Q. Do schools carry out risk assessments of cookery classes for severely allergic children?

A. The school has a duty of care to safeguard children with special medical needs, so an appropriate protocol for managing the individual classroom situation must be agreed between parents, pupil(where appropriate), head teacher and teaching staff.

Q. My child has an adrenaline autoinjector, antihistamine and a salbutamol inhaler, what happens to these when my child is in the playground or on the sports field and there is an emergency? How can I ensure they are given promptly?

A. The salbutamol inhaler and adrenaline autoinjector should be available in close proximity to these outside areas, where they can be immediately accessed by the pupil themselves or the member of staff in charge of the child. This process should be covered by medicine management in school policy

Q. What happens on school trips, when on coaches, trains & aeroplane journeys?

A. This is where whole school allergy awareness groups formulating robust policy and procedures take into consideration all aspects of school life. An inhaler and adrenaline autoinjector is normally carried by senior school children for whom they are prescribed or by the accompanying adult for younger children.

Q. How can I prevent my child being bullied at school due to his severe nut allergy?

A. Empower the child to talk about their allergy and ask questions if they are unsure, also encourage the school to educate all pupils about allergic conditions and how they can help promote a safe environment for your child and others with allergy. If you are concerned discuss this with your child's school.