



Anaphylaxis and Severe Allergy Policy

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Policy Statement

Sutton Music Trust (SMT) is committed to promoting the health, safety and wellbeing of all children and young people participating in our activities. We recognise that severe allergies and anaphylaxis can be life-threatening and require a prompt and effective response.

SMT delivers music education activities including lessons, rehearsals, ensembles, performances, workshops and events. These activities take place both in and out of schools. Whilst SMT is not a school and is not subject to the statutory duties placed upon schools under Benedict's Law, SMT is committed to taking reasonable steps to support the safety of children with severe allergies and to promoting awareness amongst staff and tutors.

This policy sets out the responsibilities of SMT, parents/carers, tutors and staff in relation to allergy awareness and emergency response.

Key Points of Policy

- SMT is committed to providing a safe environment for all children and young people participating in SMT activities.
- Benedict's Law introduced new statutory allergy safety requirements for schools in England from September 2026. These requirements apply to schools and educational settings covered by the legislation. SMT is not a school and is therefore not legally required to implement those statutory arrangements.
- SMT will nevertheless promote good practice in allergy awareness and emergency response.
- SMT will provide allergy awareness training to all core team members and tutors.
- Parents/carers must inform SMT if their child has a severe allergy or carries Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs).
- Parents/carers must ensure their child attends all SMT activities carrying two in-date AAIs, where prescribed.
- Children and young people prescribed AAIs must understand that they are responsible for keeping them with them throughout SMT activities, where age and maturity make this appropriate.
- Parents/carers must ensure emergency contact details and medical information held by SMT remain accurate and up to date.

- In the event of a suspected anaphylactic reaction at an extra-curricular activity, SMT staff will follow appropriate first aid procedures and seek emergency medical assistance immediately. SMT will also notify parents immediately if they are not already present.
- In the event of a suspected anaphylactic reaction in a school, SMT staff will follow appropriate procedures and notify relevant school staff immediately.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- SMT employees
- SMT tutors and conductors
- Children and young people attending SMT activities
- Parents and carers

It applies to all SMT-operated activities, including lessons, ensembles, rehearsals, workshops, performances, trips and events.

Principles

- **Child Safety:** The wellbeing and safety of children and young people is our highest priority.
- **Shared Responsibility:** The management of severe allergies is a shared responsibility between parents/carers, the child or young person, and SMT staff.
- **Awareness:** Staff and tutors should have an appropriate understanding and awareness of severe allergies, anaphylaxis and emergency procedures.
- **Inclusion:** Children with severe allergies should, wherever reasonably possible, be able to participate fully in SMT activities.
- **Reasonable and Proportionate Measures:** As a music education service rather than a school, SMT will take reasonable steps to support children with severe allergies while recognising that parents/carers remain responsible for ensuring prescribed medication is available.

Responsibilities

SMT will:

- Request and maintain relevant medical information from parents/guardians as part of registration and enrolment processes on Speed Admin.
- Request and maintain emergency contact details from parents/guardians as part of registration and enrolment processes on Speed Admin.
- Provide allergy awareness training for all core team members and tutors.
- Ensure staff know how to summon emergency assistance.
- Encourage staff and tutors to familiarise themselves with children known to have severe allergies where this information is relevant to their role.
- Contact emergency services or notify school staff immediately where an anaphylactic reaction is suspected.
- Ensure risk assessments account for the managing of allergens.
- Review this policy regularly to reflect changes in legislation and good practice.

- SMT does not routinely provide, store or manage prescribed medication on behalf of children and young people unless specific arrangements have been agreed in advance.

Parents/carers must:

- Inform SMT if their child has a severe allergy, risk of anaphylaxis, or has been prescribed an AAI.
- Provide accurate and up-to-date medical information during registration and whenever circumstances change.
- Ensure emergency contact details remain current and accurate on Speed Admin.
- Ensure their child attends SMT activities carrying **two prescribed, in-date AAIs** at all times.
- Check that prescribed AAIs have not expired and are replaced as necessary.
- Ensure their child understands the importance of keeping their AAIs with them during all SMT activities.
- Inform SMT promptly of any changes to their child's allergy management plan or medication. Failure to provide accurate medical information or appropriate medication may impact SMT's ability to support a child's participation safely.

Children and young people must: *(considering where age and maturity are appropriate)*

- Carry their prescribed AAIs with them at all SMT activities.
- Inform a tutor or member of staff immediately if they believe they are experiencing an allergic reaction.
- Inform a tutor or member of staff if their AAI has been lost, damaged or used.

Emergency Response

If a child or young person appears to be experiencing anaphylaxis:

1. Call 999 immediately and state anaphylaxis.
2. The child's prescribed AAI should be administered if available. This may be supporting them to administer it, or being administered by a trained member of staff.
3. A second AAI should be administered if symptoms continue or return in accordance with medical guidance.
4. Parents/carers will be contacted as soon as practicable.
5. The incident will be recorded and reviewed.
6. Staff should always treat suspected anaphylaxis as a medical emergency.

Training

SMT will provide allergy awareness training for SMT Core Team and Tutors/Conductors which will include awareness of:

- Common allergens
- Recognition of allergic reactions
- Recognition of anaphylaxis
- Emergency response procedures
- Understanding the role of AAIs

Such training is intended to promote awareness and confidence and should not be regarded as a substitute for medical advice or parental responsibility for medication.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if required by legislative changes, operational needs or following any significant allergy-related incident.