



Allergy Policy

**Statutory Policy aligned with Benedict's Law expectations and
DfE statutory direction**

Agreed by Governors: Summer 2026

To be reviewed: Summer 2028

1. Statement of Intent

At Dothill Primary School, the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all pupils is paramount. We are committed to providing a safe learning environment for pupils with allergies and reducing the risk of allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis.

This policy aligns with:

- Department for Education (DfE) statutory responsibilities for supporting pupils with medical conditions
- The Children and Families Act 2014 (Section 100)
- 2026 strengthened allergy guidance (commonly referred to as *Benedict's Law*)

From September 2026, schools are expected to maintain **robust allergy management, trained staff, emergency medication access, and clear policies.**

2. Aims

- To safeguard pupils with allergies and prevent exposure to allergens
- To ensure staff are trained to recognise and respond to allergic reactions
- To provide clear procedures for prevention, identification and emergency response
- To promote a consistent whole-school approach

3. Roles and Responsibilities

Headteacher

- Ensure the school has a published whole-school allergy policy
- Ensure staff training is completed and updated annually
- Ensure appropriate resources (including emergency medication) are in place

Allergy Lead (Designated Staff Member)

- Maintain allergy records and individual healthcare plans (IHPs)
- Coordinate staff training and awareness
- Liaise with parents, healthcare professionals and catering providers

All Staff

- Be aware of pupils with allergies
- Understand signs of allergic reactions and anaphylaxis
- Know how to respond in an emergency, including use of adrenaline auto-injectors

Parents/Carers

- Inform the school of allergies and provide medical evidence where possible
- Provide prescribed medication (where required)
- Work in partnership with the school to review care plans

4. Identification and Care Planning

All pupils with allergies must have an **Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP)**

Plans will include:

- Allergens and triggers
- Symptoms
- Medication required
- Emergency actions

Individual care plans are a **key expectation under new DfE guidance**.

5. Allergy Prevention and Risk Reduction

The school will:

- Maintain an up-to-date allergy register
- Communicate allergy information to all relevant staff
- Implement risk assessments for:
 - Classroom activities
 - School trips
 - Food provision

Food and Catering

- Follow Food Information Regulations (allergen labelling requirements)
- Ensure allergens are clearly identified in meals
- Prevent cross-contamination wherever possible

Schools must ensure pupils with allergies can safely access meals and that allergen information is available.

6. Staff Training

All staff will receive:

- Allergy awareness training

- Recognition of symptoms (mild to severe)
- Emergency response training, including use of adrenaline auto-injectors

Training must include all staff groups (teaching, support, lunchtime, transport, etc.).

Training will be refreshed **at least annually** or sooner if required.

7. Emergency Medication

The school will:

- Hold **spare, in-date adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs)** on site
- Ensure devices are easily accessible but safely stored
- Maintain a register of medication (expiry dates, checks etc.)

Schools are expected to stock spare AAIs for emergency use as part of 2026 requirements.

8. Recognising and Responding to an Allergic Reaction

Signs of Anaphylaxis May Include:

- Difficulty breathing
- Swelling of lips, tongue or throat
- Collapse or dizziness
- Skin rash or swelling

Emergency Procedure

1. Call 999 immediately
2. Administer adrenaline auto-injector without delay
3. Inform parents/carers
4. Stay with the child and monitor
5. Record the incident

Delayed response to anaphylaxis is a critical risk factor; rapid action is essential.

9. Communication

The school will:

- Share allergy information with staff and relevant pupils (where appropriate)
- Communicate clearly with parents
- Ensure updates are accessible via multiple channels

Consistent communication and information sharing are a key requirement under the new guidance.

10. Record Keeping and Monitoring

Maintain accurate records of:

- Allergies
- Incidents
- Training completed

Review incidents to identify learning and improvement

Improved incident recording and learning processes are expected under 2026 requirements.

11. Inclusion and Safeguarding

- Pupils with allergies will be fully included in all school activities
- Reasonable adjustments will be made where necessary
- Bullying related to allergies will be treated seriously

12. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed:

- Annually
- Following any serious incident
- In line with updated DfE guidance

Appendices

Related information and policies

[Benedict's Law moves forward as Government commits to mandatory school allergy guidance | Anaphylaxis UK](#)

[Stronger protections for children with allergies in school - GOV.UK](#)

Medical Conditions Policy

Medicines in School Policy

- Appendix 1: Individual Healthcare Plan Template

- Appendix 2: Emergency Action Poster
- Appendix 3: Staff Training Record
- Appendix 4: Allergy Register Template