



**SUPPORT FOR PUPILS WITH  
MEDICAL CONDITIONS &  
ALLERGIES  
MARCH 2026**



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SAFEGUARDING  
MATTERS

## **Consultation closes: 1 May 2026**

### Summary

The DfE is consulting on updates to statutory guidance to improve safety, consistency, and inclusion for children with medical conditions and allergies.

Key proposals include:

- Mandatory published Medical Conditions Policy for every school.
- Strengthened Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) with clearer expectations for content, review, and multi-agency involvement.
- Stronger recording, reporting, and learning from serious incidents and near misses.
- A new, separate, published Allergy Safety Policy, including:
  - \* staff training
  - \* emergency response expectations
  - \* use of adrenaline devices (AAls)

These proposals aim to reduce preventable harm and ensure consistent national standards.

### Safeguarding Implications for DSLs

These proposals highlight wider expectations for DSL's including:

#### Preventing harm

- Medical and allergy mismanagement is recognised as a predictable and preventable safeguarding risk.
- DSLs must ensure medical needs are embedded into the school's risk assessment framework, supervision planning, and culture of vigilance.

#### Stronger systems and oversight

DSLs will need to ensure alignment between the Medical Policy, Allergy Policy, and Child Protection Policy.

#### Incident reporting and learning

The new emphasis on recording and analysing serious incidents and near misses mirrors safeguarding expectations for reflective practice and organisational/cultural learning.

## Inclusion and attendance

The reforms aim to reduce absence and ensure pupils with medical conditions are fully included in school life.

## Schools Will Need to Have:

### A published Medical Conditions Policy (mandatory)

Must include:

- roles and responsibilities
- emergency procedures
- arrangements for medication storage and administration
- communication with parents and health professionals
- procedures for trips, clubs, and off-site activities
- monitoring and review cycles

### Strengthened Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

IHPs will need to:

- be co-produced with parents and health professionals
- include clear triggers, symptoms, and emergency actions
- specify medication arrangements and technology (e.g., pumps, monitors)
- be reviewed at least annually or after any incident
- be accessible to relevant staff

### Recording, Reporting & Learning from Incidents

Schools will be expected to:

- record all serious incidents and near misses
- analyse patterns and risks
- demonstrate learning and system improvements
- share learning with Governors
- A new Allergy Safety Policy (see briefing note on Allergy Management)
- Must include:
  - staff training requirements
  - emergency response procedures
  - use and storage of adrenaline auto-injectors
  - catering and food safety arrangements
  - communication with parents
  - risk assessments for trips and events

## Communication with Parents

Schools should ensure parents receive clear information about:

- the school's updated medical and allergy policies
- how IHPs will be developed and reviewed
- expectations for providing up-to-date medical information
- reassurance about staff training and emergency preparedness

## Consultation Details

This is an open consultation that closes on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026.

Responses will inform the final statutory guidance and wider DfE work on safety and inclusion.

Please share any responses via [Proposal on support for pupils with medical conditions at school - GOV.UK](#)

At HH:SM we will be producing a generic Medical Conditions Policy inclusive of allergies ahead of September 2026.