



EDITH STEIN **CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST**

ALLERGY POLICY STATEMENT **JULY 2026**

Introduction

Benedict's Law is a new piece of legislation that makes allergy safety mandatory in all schools in England. From September 2026, schools must have a whole-school allergy policy, trained employees, spare adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) on site, and Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) for pupils with allergies.

It forms part of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, which received Royal Assent on 29 April 2026. Government guidance 'Allergy safety in schools', published in July 2026 provides detailed guidance on statutory obligations for all school.

Due to the specific context of each school Directors are of the view that schools are in the best position to formulate a policy that reflects their setting and circumstances. All ESCAT schools must have an Allergy policy that follows the requirement of this statement.

The information in this statement applies to all ESCAT schools, central Trust staff and all premises operated by the Trust. Where Trust staff are located in a school they must follow the policy of the school.

School policies

LGBs must author a policy that follows guidance provided by the DfE, in particular the school allergy safety policy should set out.

1. How the school, will identify children and young people with allergy and minimise the risks of exposure to known allergens, including managing the risk of food allergy;
2. How staff will be trained in allergy awareness and emergency response; how individuals at risk of anaphylaxis will have access to their prescribed adrenaline devices, alongside "spare" adrenaline devices;
3. Actions required as soon as anaphylaxis is suspected;

4. How medication is stored and controlled, including the storage of spare adrenaline auto-injectors;
5. How children and young people with allergy will be able to participate in visits and trips;
6. How Individual Healthcare Plans will capture specific arrangements (including any Allergy Action Plan and/or Asthma Plan), and;
7. How the wellbeing and inclusion of children and young people with allergy will be promoted;
8. How children at risk of anaphylaxis can be identified in a manner that is dignified and appropriate for age and stage.

Responsibilities

ESCAT schools have a responsibility to create a safe culture in schools around allergy safety, this extends to the whole community. The Trust does not believe that it is possible to implement a blanket ban on any particular allergen in schools. This is because nuts are only one of many allergens that could affect pupils, and no school could guarantee a truly allergen free environment for a child living with food allergy. We advocate instead for schools to adopt a culture of allergy awareness and education.

A 'whole school awareness of allergies' is a much better approach, as it ensures teachers, pupils and all other staff are aware of what allergies are, the importance of avoiding the pupils' allergens, the signs and symptoms, how to deal with allergic reactions and to ensure policies and procedures are in place to minimise risk.

The management of students at risk of anaphylaxis, is a shared responsibility between school and home. The school's policy should make it clear what the expectations are of parents. ESCAT schools should identify in their policy who is responsible for implementing aspects of their policy.

External contractors

Schools are responsible for ensuring that any outside contractors, particularly but not limited to food businesses, who could potentially bring known allergens into school, are aware of the school policy and associated risks and that they are also following statutory guidance.

Health care plans

Any child or young person whose allergy will require the school, college or early years setting to put supportive arrangements in place should have them captured through an Individual Healthcare Plan. Individual Healthcare Plans set out what needs to be done to support a specific child or young person with an allergy, how, when and by whom, including in an emergency. Individual Healthcare Plans should be developed in collaboration with the child or young person and their parents, taking account of any advice received from healthcare professionals.

Where serious incidents or "near misses" occur involving a child or young person with an allergy, the incident should be recorded in accordance with the school's health and safety plan. It should be reported to the child or young person's parents and the governing body alongside any statutory reporting.

Following investigation, lessons should be learned from any serious incident or "near miss", prompting a review of the relevant policies and arrangements.

Reasonable consideration

Children with allergies should be supported to access the full range of curriculum and extracurricular activities wherever possible. Appropriate control measures, reasonable adjustments, and safeguarding arrangements should be put in place to enable their safe participation. However, where a thorough risk assessment identifies that the level of risk remains unacceptably high despite all reasonable mitigation measures being considered and implemented, it may be necessary, in exceptional circumstances, to restrict a student's participation in a specific activity to ensure their safety and wellbeing.