

The Emscote School

POSITIVE about YOUNG PEOPLE



Allergy Management

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Parneet Kang', written over a horizontal line.

Parneet Kang
Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Holland', written over a horizontal line.

William Holland
Chair of Trustees

Reviewed; August 2026- Parneet Kang

What “Benedict’s Law” is

Benedict’s Law refers to proposed legislation and policy reforms designed to improve allergy safety in schools in England. It is named after **Benedict Blythe**, a five-year-old boy who died from anaphylaxis at school in 2021 after exposure to milk despite having a known allergy.

The campaign aims to ensure consistent, life-saving safeguards in every school. Key proposed requirements include:

- Schools holding **spare adrenaline auto-injectors** (e.g., EpiPens)
- **Allergy and anaphylaxis training for staff**
- **A whole-school allergy policy**
- **Individual allergy action plans** for pupils with allergies

These measures are intended to address inconsistencies between schools and reduce the risk of preventable deaths.

A **food allergy policy for schools in the UK** outlines how a school prevents allergic reactions, supports pupils with allergies, and responds to emergencies. While there isn’t a single national template mandated by law, schools must follow guidance under legislation such as the Children and Families Act 2014 and Department for Education guidance like Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions (Department for Education).

1. Purpose

The policy explains how the school will:

- Safeguard pupils with **food allergies or anaphylaxis**
 - Minimise exposure to allergens
 - Ensure staff are trained to respond to allergic reactions
 - Comply with relevant health and safety and safeguarding guidance
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2. Scope

The policy applies to:

- Pupils
 - Staff
 - Volunteers
 - Visitors
 - Contractors (including catering providers)
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3. Legal and Guidance Framework

Schools usually reference:

- Children and Families Act 2014
 - Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions (Department for Education)
 - Anaphylaxis UK best-practice guidance
 - Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
 - Equality Act 2010
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4. Responsibilities

Headteacher

- Ensures the policy is implemented
- Ensures staff receive training on allergy awareness and emergency response

School Staff

- Understand which pupils have allergies
- Know how to recognise symptoms
- Know how to use adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs)

Parents/Carers

- Inform the school about allergies
- Provide medication (e.g., adrenaline auto-injectors)
- Provide an up-to-date medical care plan

Pupils

- Avoid sharing food
 - Inform staff immediately if they feel unwell
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5. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHP)

For pupils with serious allergies, the school should create an **Individual Healthcare Plan** including:

- Known allergens
- Symptoms
- Medication required
- Emergency procedures
- Contact details

6. Allergen Risk Management

Typical control measures include:

Use of specific materials

- Ensuring alternatives are in place (latex gloves or fabric plasters)

Food and classroom rules

- No sharing food
- Hand washing before and after eating
- Cleaning tables after meals

Food restrictions (where necessary)

- Nut-free or allergen-aware policies for specific pupils
- Monitoring packed lunches

School events

- Clear labelling of foods
 - Allergy checks for trips and parties
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7. Staff Training

Staff should receive training on:

- Recognising allergic reactions
- Managing **anaphylaxis**
- Using adrenaline auto-injectors such as EpiPen or Jext

Training should be refreshed regularly.

8. Emergency Procedures

If a pupil has a severe reaction:

1. Administer an **adrenaline auto-injector immediately**
2. Call **999**
3. Inform parents/carers
4. Monitor the pupil until emergency services arrive
5. Record the incident

Schools may hold spare AAls under guidance from Department of Health and Social Care.

9. Catering and Food Provision

If the school provides meals:

- Catering staff must follow UK allergen labelling laws under Food Information Regulations 2014
 - Allergen information must be available for all menu items.
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10. Communication

The school should:

- Inform staff about pupils with allergies
 - Provide guidance to parents on safe packed lunches
 - Display emergency procedures where appropriate.
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11. Monitoring and Review

The policy should be:

- Reviewed annually
 - Updated after incidents
 - Reviewed when new pupils with allergies join the school
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