

Governor Services Briefing Paper
Allergy Safety Statutory Guidance (DfE, July 2026)

Important note for governing boards:

This briefing paper is intended to support governing boards in their strategic oversight of allergy safety. It is not a substitute for the [Department for Education's statutory guidance *Allergy Safety in Schools \(July 2026\)*](#) and should not be regarded as an exhaustive summary of all requirements. Governing boards, academy trusts and management committees should read the statutory guidance in full and have regard to it when discharging their duties and exercising oversight of allergy safety arrangements.

Purpose

The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 places a duty on maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units (PRUs) to maintain, publish and regularly review an Allergy Safety Policy. Governing bodies, academy trusts and management committees must review and have regard to the statutory guidance.

Which Schools Does the Guidance Apply To?

Statutory: Maintained schools (including maintained special schools), academies and free schools, and PRUs.

Not currently statutory: maintained nursery schools, 16-19 academies, independent schools, independent special schools and non-maintained special schools. The Government intends to extend equivalent requirements to some sectors in future.

Key Governing Board Responsibilities

- Ensure an Allergy Safety Policy is in place, published, reviewed at least annually, and reviewed following any serious allergy-related incident or near miss.
- Seek assurance that allergy-related risks are reflected in the school's risk management arrangements.
- Confirm that a named senior leader has responsibility for allergy safety.
- Ensure pupils requiring support have Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Seek assurance that staff receive appropriate allergy awareness and emergency response training.
- Ensure emergency medication arrangements are effective.
- Promote inclusion, wellbeing and prevention of allergy-related bullying.
- Ensure allergy-related incidents and near misses are recorded, reviewed and used to inform continuous improvement and risk reduction.
- Seek assurance that the school promotes an allergy-aware culture and that pupils with allergies can participate safely and fully in all aspects of school life.
- Consider whether oversight of allergy safety should form part of an existing governor monitoring responsibility, such as safeguarding, health and safety, or pupil wellbeing.

Questions Governors Should Ask

Policy and Compliance

1. When was the Allergy Safety Policy last reviewed and approved?
2. How have we assured ourselves that the policy reflects the July 2026 statutory guidance?
3. Is the policy published and accessible to parents, staff and pupils?

Leadership and Risk Management

1. Who is the named senior leader responsible for allergy safety?
2. How are allergy-related risks reflected in the school's risk register?
3. What assurance information is reported to governors?

Training

1. Have all relevant staff received annual allergy awareness training?
2. How do we ensure supply staff and new starters understand allergy procedures?

Pupil Support

1. How many pupils currently have allergy-related Individual Healthcare Plans?
2. How are IHPs reviewed and monitored?
3. What measures are in place to support wellbeing and prevent allergy-related bullying?
4. How does the school ensure pupils with allergies are able to participate fully in lessons, enrichment activities, visits and residential?

Emergency Preparedness

1. Are prescribed and spare adrenaline auto-injectors readily accessible and routinely checked?
2. How do we test emergency response arrangements?
3. What arrangements are in place for educational visits and residential trips?

Monitoring and Assurance

1. Have there been any allergy-related incidents or near misses during the past year?
2. What lessons were learned and what actions were taken?
3. Are governors receiving regular reports on allergy safety and emerging risks?
4. Are there any recurring themes, trends or patterns arising from allergy-related incidents or near misses?

Key Message:

Governors are not responsible for operational delivery. Their role is to provide strategic oversight and challenge, seeking assurance that effective policies, leadership, training, risk management and emergency arrangements are in place to safeguard pupils and meet statutory requirements.

Further Reading:

[Allergy safety in schools statutory guidance](#)

[Allergy safety policy – template](#)

[Individual Healthcare Plan template 4 July 2026.docx](#)

[Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school - GOV.UK](#)