



Department  
for Education

## Department for Education Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions at School Government Consultation – March 2026

**Please respond by 15 May 2026**

This is the easy read version of  
Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school  
- Government consultation



## About this consultation



The government wants children and young people with medical conditions or allergies to get the same education as everyone else.

They should be:

- Safe at school
- Able to attend regularly
- Included in all activities
- Able to enjoy life at school



This consultation is about new statutory guidance for schools, academies, and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) to help children with medical conditions. It tells them what the government says they must do to support children and young people who have medical conditions or allergies. It will replace older guidance from 2015.

## Who is this guidance for?



- Maintained schools (including special schools, but not nursery schools)
- Academies and free schools (not 16–19 academies)
- PRUs

It is also helpful for:

- Early years settings
- Colleges and post-16 education
- Independent schools
- Other providers
- It also helps:
- Local authorities
- School transport providers
- Parents, carers, and young people
- Health staff, including school nurses

## How to take part



You can do the main consultation online at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

Or you can take part in the easy read version in one of these ways:

- Complete it on a computer, save it and attach to an email
- Complete it on a computer, then print and post
- Print, complete by hand, scan and email
- Or print, complete by hand and post.



These are the email and post addresses:

Email:

[MedicalandAllergy.CONULTATION@education.gov.uk](mailto:MedicalandAllergy.CONULTATION@education.gov.uk)

Post:

Consultation Response  
Medical Conditions at Schools Team  
Department for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT



You do not have to answer every question.

If you do not want to answer, or have no answer to give, please move to the next question.

## Questions 1 – 9 about you



1. Do you want to tell us your name?

Yes / No

If you have answered 'no' go to question 10.

2. Your name



3. Your email



4. Which local authority are you from?

5. Are you replying as an individual or an organisation?



6. Tick which type of organisation:



Early years

Primary

Secondary

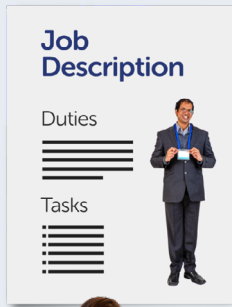
Post-16

Local authority

Health

Professional association

Other



7. Name of your organisation

8. Your work role



6. If you are replying as an individual, what is your role:



- Parent
- Child/young person
- Governor
- Head/principal
- Teacher
- Teaching assistant
- Health professional
- Interested public
- Other



## Important values the guidance is based on



All children and young people should thrive at school.

Schools should:

- Remove barriers caused by medical conditions
- Keep children safe
- Support their learning and wellbeing

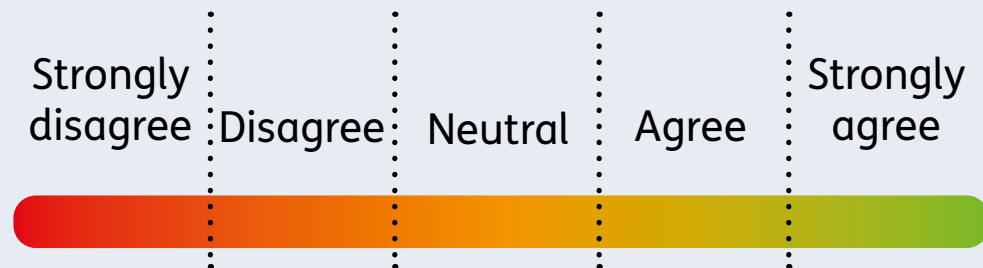


Risks children with medical conditions may face:

- Health and safety risks
- Missing school
- Feeling anxious, unhappy or isolated
- Being bullied

## Q10. Principles

Do you agree with the principles we have identified for including children and young people with medical conditions (including allergy) as fully as possible in education?



## Wellbeing

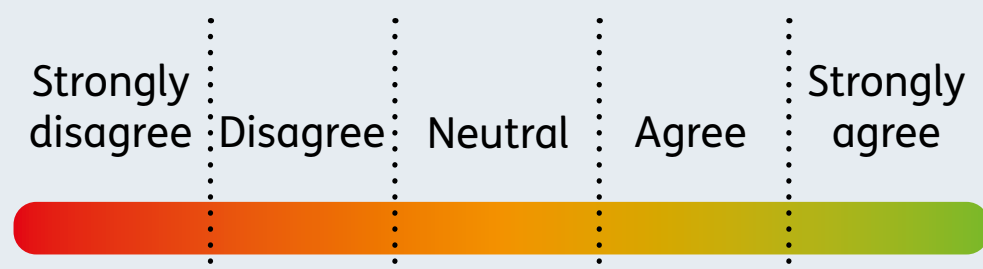


Children with medical conditions may feel:

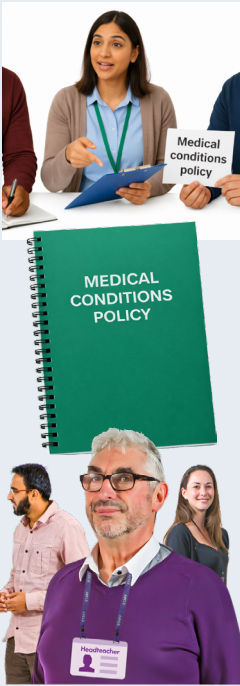
- Anxious about their care
- Left out of social groups and activities
- Bullied
- Policies and school rules should:
- Support mental health
- Prevent bullying
- Make sure all children feel included

## Q11. Wellbeing

Do you agree with the plans for encouraging the wellbeing of children and young people with medical conditions (including allergy)?



## Medical conditions policy



Schools should have a published policy on medical conditions.

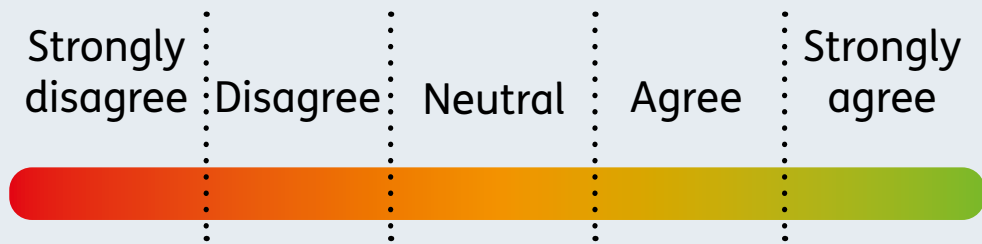
- A named governor and senior leader should be responsible
- The policy should be checked every year and after any serious incident

The policy should include:

- How children with medical conditions are identified
- How staff are trained
- How emergencies are handled
- How medication is managed
- How wellbeing is supported

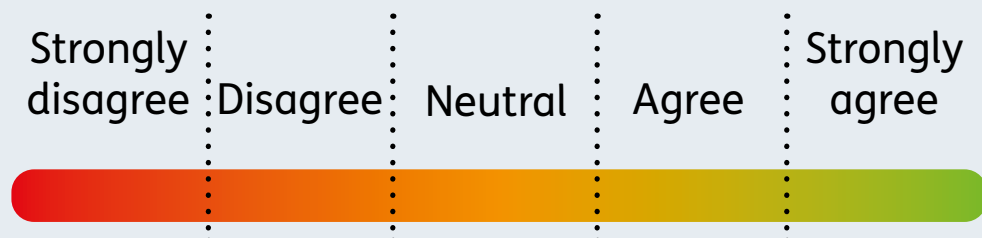
## Q12. Oversight of medical condition policies

Do you agree that a named governor and named senior leader should be responsible for the medical conditions policy?



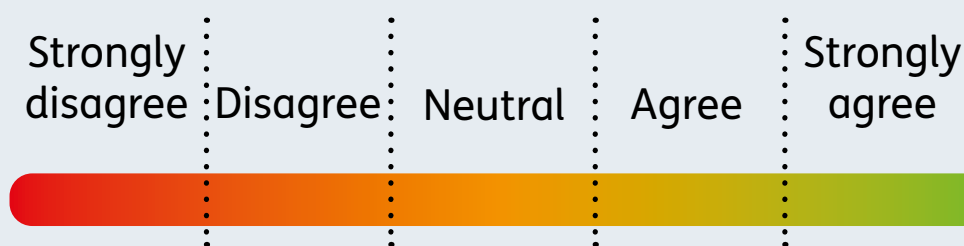
## Q13. Review of medical condition policies

Do you agree that medical conditions policies should be checked at least once a year, and after any serious incident or near miss?



## Q14. Areas covered in the medical condition policies

Do you agree with the areas covered in the medical conditions policies?



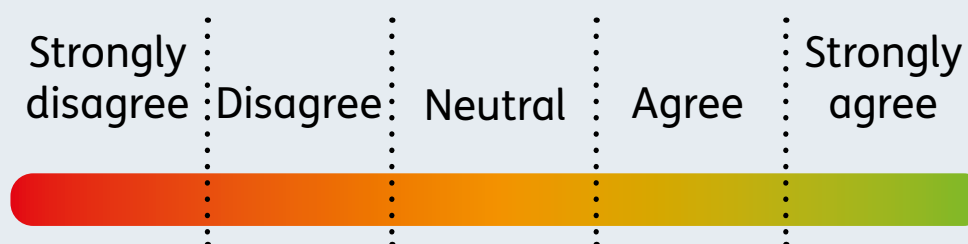
## Identifying children with medical conditions



- Schools should not wait for a diagnosis before giving support
- Short-term or mild illnesses may not need extra arrangements
- Decisions should focus on needs and risks

## Q15. Identification of children and young people with medical conditions

Do you agree with the list of medical conditions which we think should be covered by medical condition policies?



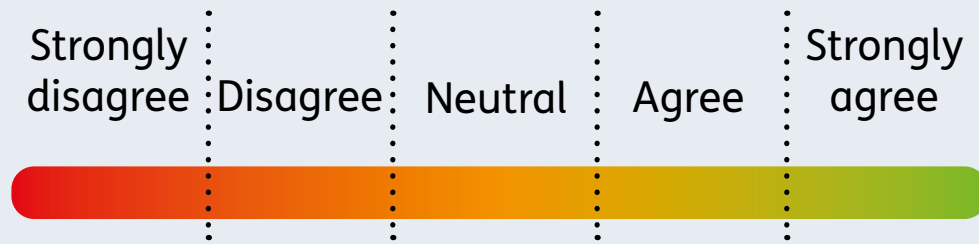
## Staff training



- All staff should know the policy
- Staff should be trained for specific conditions
- Training should ensure staff are confident and competent

## Q16. Staff training on medical conditions

Do you agree with our proposals about staff training on medical conditions?



## Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)



IHPs are plans for individual children with medical conditions.

They include:

- Child's needs and medical info
- Who should know about the condition
- How support will be provided
- Emergency steps
- Medication details

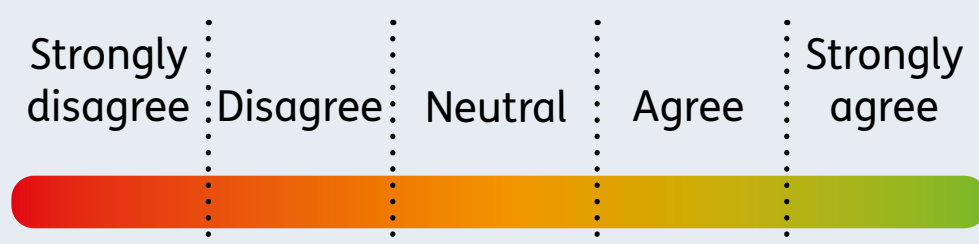
IHPs are needed if:

- Child needs prescribed medication at school
- Child needs extra support or changes made
- Child has allergies or asthma



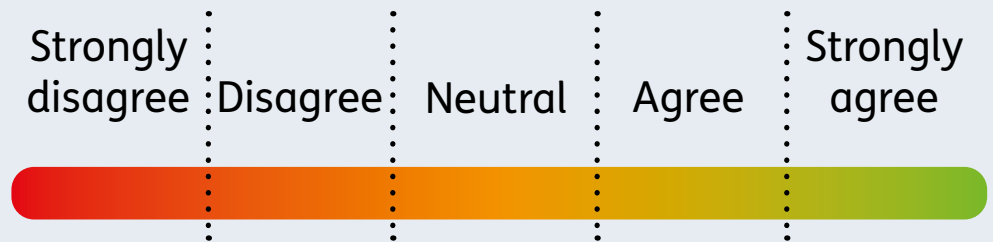
## Q17. Who needs an individual healthcare plan

Do you agree with the proposal for which children and young people will need an Individual Healthcare Plan?



## Q18. Other things covered in Individual Healthcare Plans

Do you agree with the suggested other things that should be included in Individual Healthcare Plans?



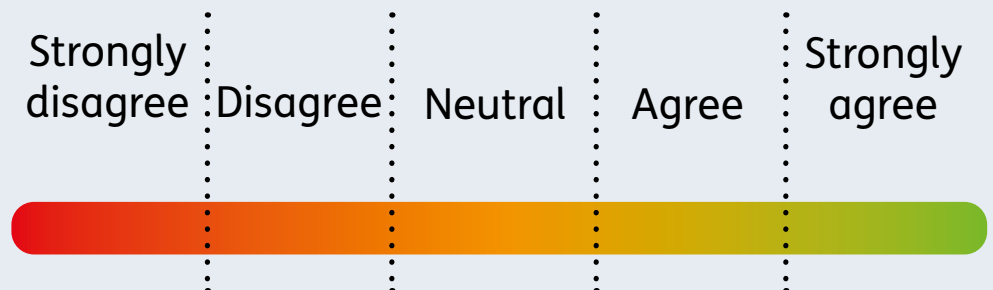
## Serious incidents and 'near misses'



- Serious incident = risk of harm or emergency
- Near miss = almost caused harm
- Schools must record and learn from incidents

## Q19. Incident reporting

Do you agree with the proposed ways for recording, reporting and learning lessons from serious incidents and 'near misses' relating to medical conditions and allergy?



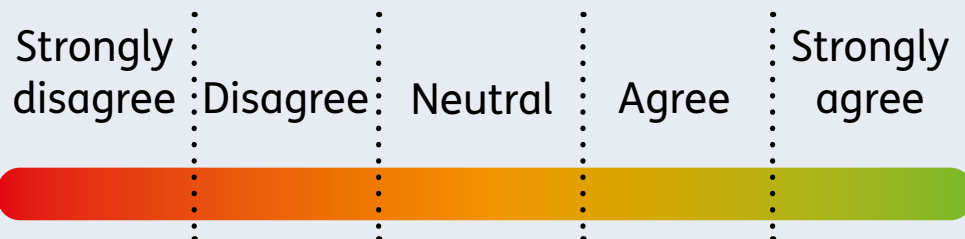
## Allergy safety



- Schools should have a separate allergy policy
- Staff must know how to recognise and treat anaphylaxis. This is a very severe allergic reaction, usually to a food, an insect bite or medication. A child may not be able to breathe and needs urgent help
- Children must have access to adrenaline devices such as an Epi-Pen

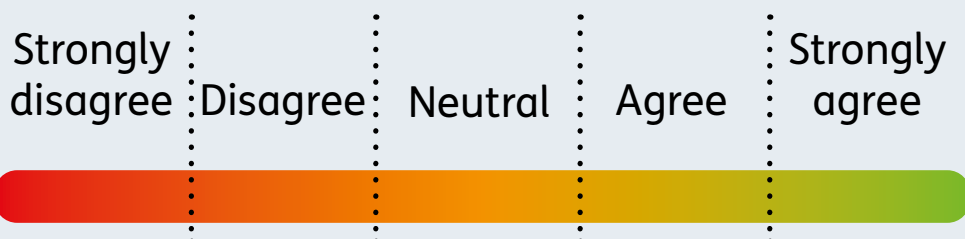
## Q20. Responsibility of allergy safety policies

Do you agree that a named governor and named senior leader should be responsible for the allergy safety policy?



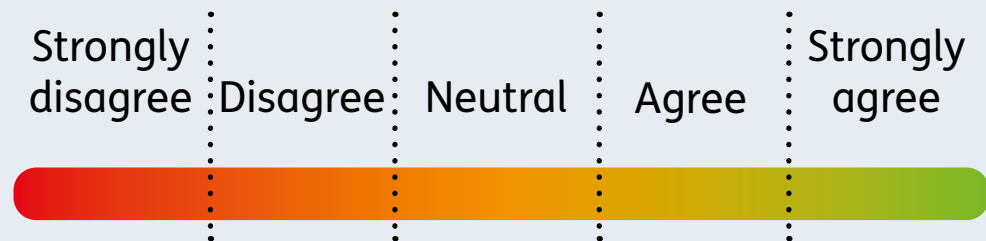
## Q21. Checking safety policies

Do you agree that allergy safety policies should be checked at least once a year, and after any serious incident or near miss?



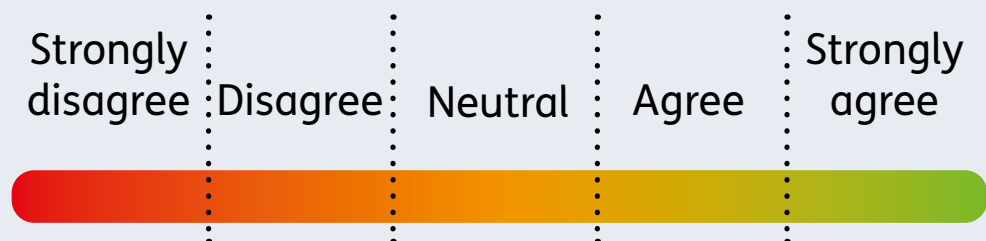
## Q22. Areas covered by allergy safety policies

Do you agree with the proposed areas included in allergy safety policies?



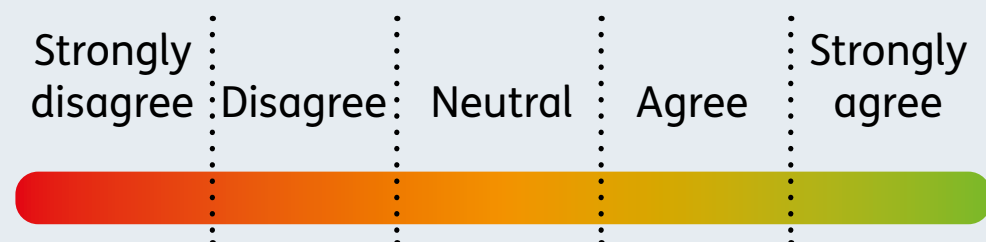
## Q23. Allergy awareness training

Do you agree with the proposals for allergy awareness training for all staff?



## Q24. Adrenaline devices

Do you agree with the proposal that all schools should stock 'spare' adrenaline devices for emergency use?



## Other things to think about when following the policy

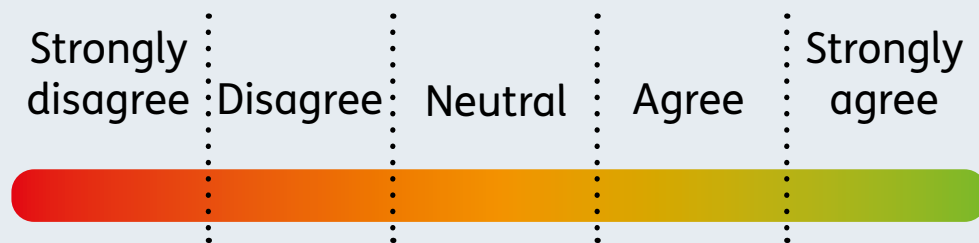


The proposal says that schools should think about:

- Admissions
- Attendance
- Exams and assessments
- First aid and medicines
- Mental health
- Food and clean air
- Complaints
- Transport
- Insurance

## Q25. Other things to consider

Do you agree that the information given to schools is helpful?



## Extending the duties



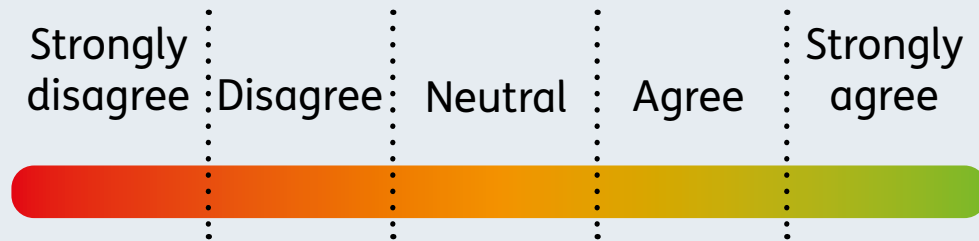
At the moment, the law applies to schools, academies, PRUs

Do you think it should also cover:

- FE colleges and post-16 students
- Non-maintained special schools
- Independent schools

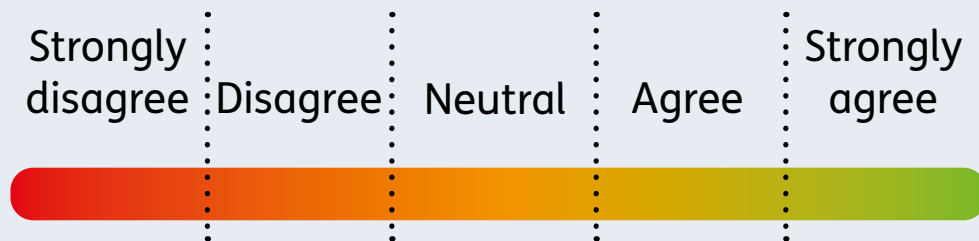
## Q26 FE colleges and post-16 institutions

Do you agree that FE colleges and post-16 institutions should also have a legal duty to make arrangements for supporting learners in statutory 16-19 education (including those up to 25 if they have an EHC Plan) with medical conditions and allergies?



## Q27. Non-maintained special schools

Do you agree that non-maintained special schools should also have a legal duty to make arrangements for supporting pupils with medical conditions and allergies?



## Q28. Independent schools

Do you agree that independent schools should also have a legal duty to make arrangements for supporting pupils with medical conditions and allergies?

