



Department
for Education

Supporting Children and Young People With Medical Conditions and Allergies Department for Education – March 2026

This is the easy read version of draft statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of academies in England



About this guidance



This document is draft statutory guidance. A draft document means it isn't finished yet. It tells schools and other education places what the government says they must do to support children and young people who have medical conditions or allergies.



This draft guide is being shared so people can give their views before the final version is published. This is called a consultation. It will replace the older guide from 2015.



The consultation is open from 5th March to 15th May 2026. The questions in easy read are in another document.



Schools must take this guidance seriously. They must follow it unless they have a very good reason not to. It is also good for early years settings, independent schools and colleges to follow the guidance.



The guidance also includes:

- school trips
- visits
- activities outside school

Who is this guidance for?



This guidance is mainly for staff who run education settings, including:

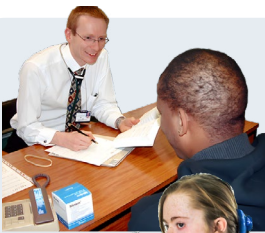
- school governors
- academy leaders
- pupil referral unit (PRU) managers



It can also help other organisations, such as:

- nurseries and early years settings
- colleges
- independent schools
- local councils
- transport providers
- parents and carers
- health professionals
- school nurses

What is a medical condition?



A medical condition is an illness or health problem that has been diagnosed by a doctor or health professional. It can affect a child's health, learning, or daily life.



Examples include:

- asthma
- diabetes
- epilepsy
- allergies
- long-term illnesses



Children and young people with medical conditions may need:

- support
- treatment
- medication
- changes to help them learn safely

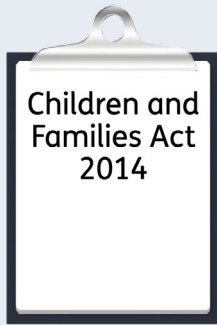


Schools must put support in place if a child needs it.



Not all medical conditions will need support from the school. This guidance is only about medical conditions which the school or education setting needs to put supportive arrangements in place.

The law about medical conditions



Schools have a legal duty to support pupils with medical conditions.

This duty comes from the Children and Families Act 2014.

This and other laws means education settings must:

- keep children safe
- protect health and safety
- treat disabled people fairly
- make sure they can attend school
- make sure they can learn



Because of these laws, education settings should have clear plans to support children with medical conditions and allergies.

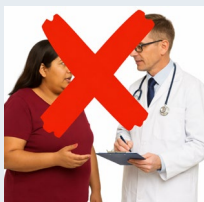
What this guidance covers



This guidance explains how schools and education settings should support children and young people with medical conditions.

It focuses on:

- support in school
- support during activities
- keeping children safe
- helping children learn



It does **not** explain how doctors or nurses give medical tasks to school staff. Separate guidance will be written about that.

Important values the guidance is based on



Children and young people with medical conditions:

- have the same right to education
- should feel safe
- should feel welcome
- should be included
- should enjoy school



They should be able to:

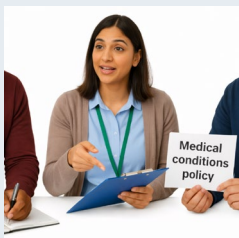
- attend school regularly
- take part in activities
- go on trips
- learn with other children



Sometimes they may need:

- extra help
- flexible support
- understanding from staff

Medical conditions policy



Every school or education setting should have a medical conditions policy.

A policy is a written plan that explains what the school will do.

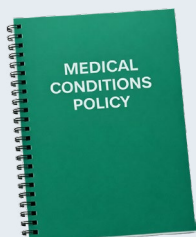
The policy should be:

- clear
- up to date
- checked every year
- available on the school website



A named leader and a governor should be responsible for the policy.

What the policy should include



The policy should explain:

- how children with medical conditions are identified
- how children will be included in school life
- how staff will be trained
- what to do in an emergency
- how medication will be managed
- how concerns can be reported
- how children's wellbeing will be supported
- how children can go on school trips safely

Individual Healthcare Plans



Some children will need an Individual Healthcare Plan.

This is a personal plan for one child.

It explains:

- what support the child needs
- what medication they take
- when help is needed
- who will provide support
- what to do in an emergency

The school or education setting creates the plan.



The plan should be created with:

- the child or young person
- parents or carers
- health professionals
- The plan should be clear and easy to follow.
- The plan should be reviewed and updated regularly – at least once a year.

Recording incidents



Sometimes something may go wrong.

For example:

- a medical emergency
- an allergic reaction
- a near miss



A near miss means something almost went wrong.

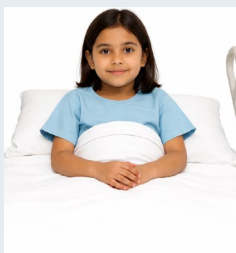


When this happens, the school must:

- write down what happened
- tell the parents
- think about what went wrong
- learn from the incident
- improve safety
- support the wellbeing of everyone



Allergy safety



Schools must also have a separate allergy safety policy.

This is important because some allergies can be life-threatening.

A serious allergic reaction is called anaphylaxis.

This can happen very quickly and needs urgent treatment.

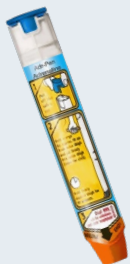
What the allergy policy should include



The allergy policy should explain:

- how children with allergies are identified
- how risks are reduced
- how food allergies are managed
- how staff are trained
- how emergencies are handled
- how children can go on trips safely
- how medication is stored and used
- how wellbeing is supported

Emergency medicine



Some children carry emergency medicine called adrenaline.

This medicine is used during a severe allergic reaction.



Schools should:

- make sure children can access their medicine quickly
- keep spare emergency medicine
- make sure staff know how to use it

Inclusion and wellbeing



Children with medical conditions and allergies should:

- feel safe
- feel supported
- feel included
- feel valued

Schools should create an environment where all children can:

- learn
- take part
- succeed

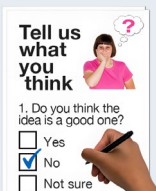


Other information



The guidance also helps schools think about:

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



This is a short easy read summary of the draft guidance. There is more detail in the 120 page [main version](#).



The consultation is open from 5th March to 15th May 2026.

If you would like to say what you think please see the easy read questions on the [GOV.UK](#) website.