



Bishops Lydeard Church School

Headteacher: Mr James Dakin

Chair of Governors: Mr David Williams

Bishops Lydeard Church School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

'That they may have life in all its fullness' John 10:10

Respect

Endurance

Friendship

7th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Benedict's Law and changes to allergy management at school

I am writing to let you know about important changes to how we keep pupils with allergies safe at school following recent legal and statutory guidance (often referred to in the press as "Benedict's Law") and updated Department for Education guidance on allergy safety in schools. Our aim is simple: to reduce the risk of allergic reactions, ensure pupils with allergies can be included safely in all school activities, and make procedures clearer for families and staff.

What this means for our school

- Allergy Action Plans: Where a pupil has a diagnosed allergy or food intolerance we will work with you and any healthcare professionals to produce or update an Allergy Action Plan. The plan will set out agreed practical measures for avoiding known allergens, arrangements for medication (including adrenaline auto-injectors where prescribed), supervision and emergency steps.
- Mealtimes and catering: We will continue to comply with the School Food Standards and will work closely with our caterers to ensure allergen information is available for school-provided meals. If your child has an allergy/intolerance, please ensure the school and catering team have up-to-date information so we can offer safe meal choices and avoid cross-contamination.
- Clear labelling and safer handling: Bottles, lunchboxes and any foods provided specifically for pupils with allergies must be clearly labelled with the pupil's name. Catering and kitchen staff will follow safe-handling procedures (for example preparing allergy-safe meals first and careful cleaning of surfaces and utensils) to minimise risk.
- Packed lunches, treats and classroom activities: We will ask parents to avoid sending unlabelled food items in for whole-class treats and will request permission in advance when food is to be shared or used in class activities. Where food is used in curriculum activities (cooking, craft, experiments) we will provide safe alternatives so all pupils can participate.

Identification at mealtimes — orange lanyards

To make it easy for kitchen and supervisory staff to identify pupils with allergies — and to ensure they receive the correct meal and support without being singled out — pupils with medically diagnosed allergies or intolerances will be provided with an orange lanyard with their lunch sticker. The lanyard is a safety measure: it is one of two methods we will use at mealtimes to make sure pupils are given the correct food and that any necessary checks are completed. Pupils will not be segregated at lunch; they will sit with their classmates and enjoy school meals as part of the whole school community. They will hand the lanyard back when they have finished their lunch.

Medication and emergency response

Staff will store and administer medication in line with the pupil's Allergy Action Plan. Various staff members are trained in recognising allergic reactions and in the safe use of adrenaline auto-injectors. Emergency arrangements will be set out clearly in each pupil's plan.



What we need from you

- If your child has a diagnosed allergy or food intolerance, please tell the school office immediately (if you have not already). Provide copies of any healthcare plans, prescriptions or instructions from clinicians.
- Ensure lunchboxes, bottles and medication are clearly labelled with your child's name.
- Do not send unlabelled treats into school for sharing. If you wish to provide items for celebration, please speak to the class teacher first so we can agree safe options for all pupils.
- If your child carries an adrenaline auto-injector, please ensure it is in school and in date. We will contact you to arrange updated IHPs and training if needed.

Further information

If you would like to discuss your child's needs or have any questions about these changes, please contact the school office.

Keeping every pupil safe while ensuring they are fully included in school life is a shared responsibility, and your support with these changes is valued.

Yours sincerely,

James Dakin
Headteacher
Bishops Lydeard Church School