



Olivia Bailey MP
Minister for Early Education
Department for Education
20 Great Smith St, London
SW1P 3BT

29th January 2026

Dear Minister,

Re: Urgent Action Required on Allergy Safety in Schools and the Overdue Consultation on Medical Conditions Statutory Guidance.

We write jointly, on a cross-party basis, on the need for improvements to allergy safety in schools. This issue has received considerable Parliamentary attention since the tragic death of five-year-old Benedict Blythe in 2021. As you are aware, the inquest last year concluded Benedict's death was avoidable, and the result of allergy safety measures not being followed.

On 5th August 2025, the Department of Education stated:

"We do not believe the School Allergy Safety Bill is necessary because in the autumn we plan to bring forward proposals for supporting pupils with medical conditions, including allergies."

Allergy charities, including Benedict Blythe's family, were explicitly told by Ministers and officials they would be invited to take part in a consultation last Autumn. Unfortunately, no consultation has been held and communication from the Department has been inadequate.

Families were reassured updated measures would be forthcoming, yet schools remain without strengthened, modernised guidance; staff training remains inconsistent; and the risks to children, including the risk of further avoidable deaths, persist.

In July, more than 14,000 people signed the petition calling for a School Allergy Safety Bill, surpassing the 10,000 threshold for a Government response in a matter of days.

Former Education Secretary Baroness Nicky Morgan of Cotes, in collaboration with Alicia Kearns MP, who represents the Blythe family, has tabled an amendment to the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill in the Lords. This amendment, if passed, would implement the changes called for in the REACT Report published by the Benedict Blythe Foundation. Given the lack of progress on the promised consultation by the Department, this amendment provides an opportunity to swiftly deliver on its promises to better protect children with allergies in schools.

Chris Bloore MP introduced the *Schools (Allergy Safety) Bill (Benedict's Law)* in the Commons to provide a framework for strengthened protections for children with allergies in schools. We encourage Ministers to engage with, and give Government support to this effort to improve allergy safety for pupils in educational settings.

The current situation is unacceptable, with 69% of English schools without recommended allergy safeguards in place and 50% without lifesaving medication available to students. Schools are the setting outside of the home where the most allergy fatalities occur. Since Benedict's death, more children have been harmed due to avoidable gaps in policy and practice. These ongoing failures place schools, families, and pupils under unacceptable pressure and risk.



The Government must honour the commitments made to families and charities who have waited far too long.

We urge the Department to:

- 1. Support Baroness Morgan's amendment or give Parliamentary time for Chris Bloore's Private Member Bill,**
- 2. Commence the delayed consultation on Benedict's Law without further delay, and**
- 3. Introduce immediate emergency temporary guidance for schools whilst the consultative and legislative process progresses.**

We request:

1. A detailed update on the timeline for proposals on medical conditions, including allergies,
2. A clear commitment to beginning the consultation on Benedict's Law as a priority,
3. Confirmation of whether the Department will consider expedited standalone measures ahead of the wider statutory guidance review, and
4. A meeting between the Minister, the undersigned MPs, and relevant charities to discuss next steps.

This issue commands cross-party support because every child deserves to be safe at school. We would welcome the opportunity to meet you at the earliest opportunity to discuss how we best achieve this aim.

Yours Sincerely,

Alicia Kearns MP

Member of Parliament for Rutland and Stamford

Chris Bloore MP

Member of Parliament for Redditch

Liz Jarvis MP

Member of Parliament for Eastleigh

Rachael Maskell MP

Member of Parliament for York Central

Diane Abbott MP

Member of Parliament for Hackney North and Stoke Newington

Jim Shannon MP

Member of Parliament for Strangford

Cat Smith MP

Member of Parliament for Lancaster and Wyre

Bradley Thomas MP

Member of Parliament for Bromsgrove

Sharon Hodgson MP

Member of Parliament for Washington and Gateshead South

Carla Denyer MP

Member of Parliament for Bristol Central

Christine Jardine MP

Member of Parliament for Edinburgh West

Ian Byrne MP

Member of Parliament for Liverpool West Derby



Iqbal Mohamed MP

Member of Parliament for
Dewsbury and Batley

Manuela Perteghella MP

Member of Parliament for
Stratford-on-Avon

Dr Scott Arthur MP

Member of Parliament for
Edinburgh South West

Mark Pritchard MP

Member of Parliament for The
Wrekin

Paula Barker MP

Member of Parliament for
Liverpool Wavertree

Adrian Ramsay MP

Member of Parliament for
Waveney Valley

Andrew George MP

Member of Parliament for St Ives

Michael Wheeler MP

Member of Parliament for
Worsley and Eccles

Dr Caroline Johnson MP

Member of Parliament for
Sleaford and North Hykeham

Jodie Gosling MP

Member of Parliament for
Nuneaton

Ian Sollom MP

Member of Parliament for St
Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire

Richard Burgon MP

Member of Parliament for Leeds
East

Jas Athwal MP

Member of Parliament for Ilford
South

Amanda Hack MP

Member of Parliament for North
West Leicestershire

Antonia Bance MP

Member of Parliament for Tipton
and Wednesbury

Sarah Edwards MP

Member of Parliament for
Tamworth