

Benedict's Law Guidance for Sporting Events and Off-Site Activities: Duty of Care and Emergency Medication

The introduction of Benedict's Law has further reinforced the importance of schools taking appropriate steps to safeguard pupils with allergies and other medical conditions.

When pupils attend sporting competitions, fixtures, festivals, educational visits or any activity away from the school site, schools continue to hold a duty of care for those children. School leaders and accompanying staff should ensure that all relevant medical information, risk assessments and emergency procedures are considered as part of the planning process.

Particular attention should be given to pupils with known medical conditions, including severe allergies, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy or other health needs. Where a pupil has prescribed emergency medication, this should accompany the child at all times when leaving the school site and be readily accessible to suitably trained members of staff. Emergency medication should never be left at school when it may be required during an off-site activity.

Schools should ensure that:

- All relevant medical and healthcare plans are reviewed prior to the visit.
- Emergency medication accompanies the pupil and is clearly identifiable.
- Staff responsible for the visit are aware of pupils' medical needs and understand how and when to administer emergency medication.
- Appropriate supervision and communication arrangements are in place.
- Parents and carers are informed of arrangements where necessary.
- Medical needs are reflected within visit and risk assessment documentation.

The principles underpinning Benedict's Law emphasise that safeguarding pupils with medical conditions requires a proactive approach. Whether attending a sports competition, educational visit or school event, schools should take all reasonable steps to ensure that pupils can participate safely and confidently, with appropriate support and emergency medication available whenever required.

By planning effectively and maintaining robust procedures, schools can provide inclusive opportunities for all pupils whilst fulfilling their safeguarding and duty of care responsibilities.

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