



17.03.2026

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

ALLERGY PROTECTION IN SCHOOLS

The Department for Education has launched a consultation on new statutory guidance to improve allergy management in schools, following the tragic death of five-year-old Benedict Blythe in 2021. This proposed framework—referred to as Benedict's Law—signals a significant shift in safeguarding expectations.

Proposed changes (expected from September 2026):
Schools required to stock spare adrenaline auto-injectors
Mandatory staff allergy awareness training
Implementation of a written allergy policy
Use of Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) where appropriate

Support available:

Anaphylaxis UK: allergywise@anaphylaxis.org.uk
External providers (e.g. Kitt Medical) offering training and equipment

Full consultation details:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/stronger-protections-for-children-with-allergies-in-school>

SCENIREO OF THE WEEK

Scenario:

A Year 10 pupil says:

"My boyfriend gets annoyed if I don't reply straight away... he checks my phone sometimes... but it's because he cares. That's normal, right?"

Safeguarding Considerations:

The pupil may be testing whether the behaviour is acceptable
Minimisation does not reduce risk—it may indicate uncertainty or concern
Controlling behaviours can be misinterpreted as care

Staff Response:

Remain calm and non-judgemental
Use professional curiosity
Avoid dismissing as "normal teenage behaviour"
Share with the DSL to assess wider context

Key Principle:

Small disclosures often signal emerging safeguarding concerns



Emerging Harmful Sexual Behaviour and Misogyny

The Youth Justice Board has published new research highlighting increasing concerns around harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) among children.

Key insights:

Sexual offences by children increased 47% (2023–24) and 6% (2024–25)

9 in 10 girls report sexist language or unsolicited sexual content in school

27% of children have seen sexual assault content online

33% exposed to content promoting violence against women and girls

Critical safeguarding message:

HSB exists on a continuum—responses must consider context, development, and intent, not just behaviour.

Important reassurance:

Most children displaying HSB do not go on to offend as adults, especially with early intervention.

What works:

Structured programmes on consent and relationships
Actively engaging boys in challenging harmful norms

CPD Opportunity: Trauma-Informed Practice
ONLINE CONFERENCE

Bridging the Gap Between the Child's Lived Experience and the Classroom



Friday 17th April 2026 | 1:00–4:00pm