



South Dartmoor Community College

Executive Head teacher | Mrs J Veal
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Empowering everyone to be the best they can be.



9 July 2026

Dear Parents / Carers

Benedict's Law – Important Allergy Information

A new law in England, known as Benedict's Law, means schools must take additional steps to protect children with allergies, particularly those who may be at risk of severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis).

While South Dartmoor Community College has always taken great care to support pupils with allergies, from September 2026 this will also become a legal requirement for all schools.

We are therefore asking all parents and carers to ensure that we have accurate and up-to-date information about any allergies their child may have. If your child has an allergy that has not already been reported to the school, please inform us before 1 September 2026. Once we have this information, we will contact you to put an individual healthcare plan in place where necessary.

If you have already informed us of your child's allergy and it is recorded on our systems, there is no need to notify us again. However, if you are unsure whether we have the correct information, or if your child has developed any new or additional allergies, please get in touch so that we can update our records.

Please email: medical@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk

As well as ensuring allergy information is up to date, we would like to remind families that South Dartmoor Community College is a nut free environment. Please do not send any products containing nuts into school, including items such as Nutella, peanut butter, or other nut-based products. Even small amounts can be extremely dangerous to those with severe allergies. We ask that you carefully check packed lunches and snacks before bringing them into school.

It is also important to understand the difference between an allergy and an intolerance:

- An allergy can cause a serious or life-threatening reaction very quickly and involves the immune system.
- An intolerance is usually less serious and does not involve the immune system.
- This guidance is focused on allergies because of the potential for severe reactions and the need for urgent treatment.

From September 2026:

- South Dartmoor Community College will have emergency anaphylaxis kits available at Main Reception.
- All staff will receive training to support children experiencing an allergic reaction.
- We will keep spare adrenaline auto-injectors available in school. (Children who have been prescribed an auto-injector must still bring their own prescribed medication with them.)

Thank you for taking the time to read this information and for your continued support in helping us keep all children safe.

Kind regards

Mrs Y Davey - *First Aid Lead*

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