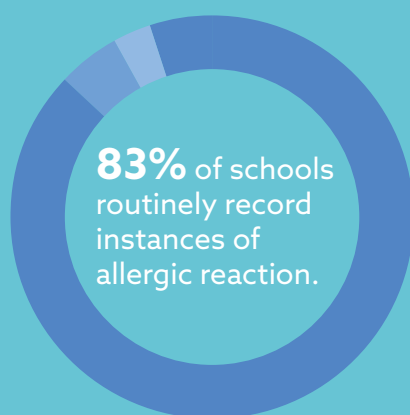


ALLERGY MANAGEMENT IN NORTHERN IRISH SCHOOLS



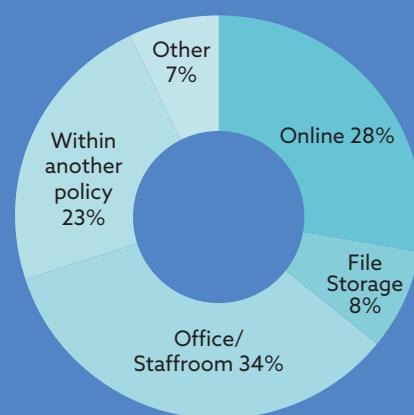
BENEDICT BLYTHE
FOUNDATION

A freedom of information request to schools in Northern Ireland revealed significant gaps in how schools are managing allergies compared to the recommended safeguards. The findings are outlined below:



87% - 0 instances
5% - 1 instance
3% - >1 instance
5% - no information

Over 50% of schools said their allergy policy is either part of a wider policy.¹



Of 446 schools with a combined total of 128,361 pupils, there were only **62 instances** of allergic reactions reported over the most recent full school year which is statistically improbable.

Only half of schools (51%) have an allergy policy in place.



Approximately **1-in-3**² (486) Northern Irish schools responded to the FOI. Insights have been captured across 4 areas; policy, support, management and records.

Top three training topics:*

1. Administration of an autoinjector/AAI/ EpiPen and other allergy medication
2. Identifying allergy symptoms and anaphylaxis
3. What to do in an allergy emergency

Bottom three training topics:*

1. The impact of a food allergy on a pupil's day-to-day life
2. The science of food allergy
3. How to manage in-school activities like cooking lessons, science lessons or bringing animals etc into the classroom



Schools rated an average of **4.9 out of 10** for how well supported and informed they felt by the government when it comes to being allergy safe. 57% rate it under 5.



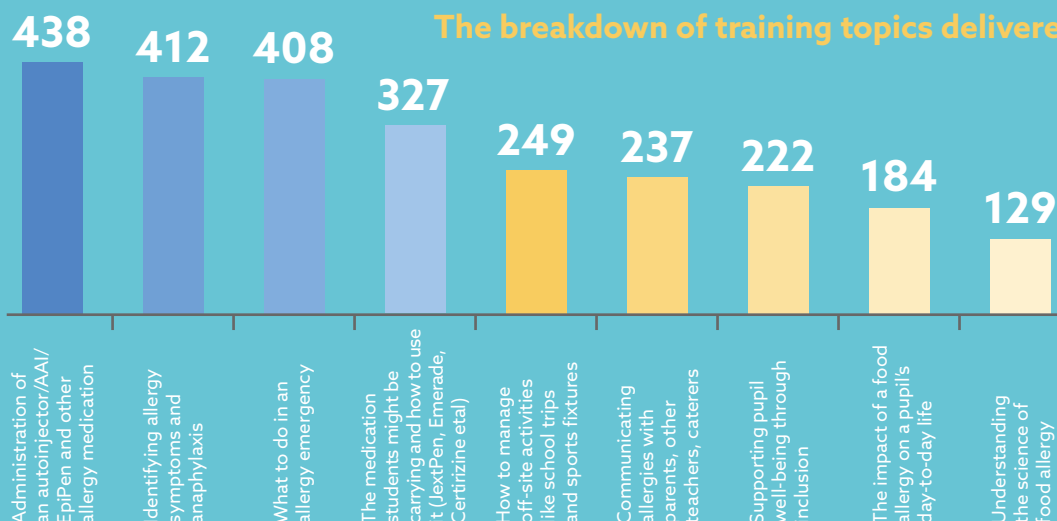
2-in-3

schools (**67%**) do not have spare autoinjectors pens.



While **94%** provided some allergy training, the **focus** was mainly on emergency response rather than prevention.

The breakdown of training topics delivered



¹ (e.g. First Aid, Medicines Policy)

² In 22/23, there were 1,470 schools in Northern Ireland according to the Department for Education

* For only those schools that said "Yes" to providing allergy training to staff.