



SUPPORTING PUPILS WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS/NEEDS POLICY

Reviewed: April 2022

Next review: April 2024

Our vision links to our school strap line – **Doers, believers, achievers**

As a school our belief is that every child deserves to succeed regardless of his or her ability.

Most pupils may, at some time have a medical condition that may affect their participation in school activities, for many this will only be short term. Other pupils may have medical conditions, if not properly managed, could limit their access to education. These are regarded as having Medical Needs.

Most pupils with medical needs are able to attend school regularly and with some support from the school, take part in most normal school activities. School staff may need to exercise extra care in supervising some activities, to ensure that these pupils with medical needs and others are not put at risk.

Governing Body

- Has general responsibility for all school policies
- Will take account of the views of the Head, the staff and parents in developing a policy on assisting pupils with medical needs
- Follows the Health and Safety policies and procedures produced by the LA.

Parents

- It is the parent's responsibility to make sure that their child is well enough to attend school. If the child is unwell, the parents should keep the child at home
- Parents should provide sufficient information about their child's medical condition, treatment and/or special care needed at school and letting the school know of any changes to the prescription or the support needed
- Parental agreement should be sought before any information about the pupil's health is transmitted to school staff.
- Ensure that medication is clearly labelled – on medication itself this should include: name of child, name of medication, dose and frequency.
- It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure that their child's medication is in date.

The School

- The school's designated persons are Miss Cook (Headteacher), Mrs Poole (SENDCo), Mrs Powell (Inclusion Manager) Miss Newport (Class Teacher) and Mrs Evans (Inclusion Manager) they work closely in ensuring all children regardless of any medical condition are provided with a safe environment in which they can access learning.
- The designated persons are responsible for ensuring that staff have appropriate training to support pupils with medical needs which is updated annually, (school nurses have done epi-pen, asthma training and diabetes training. Two staff have received diabetes training this year to support a diabetic pupil. Staff can do epilepsy and cystic fibrosis training if the need arose or can liaise with other healthcare professionals for appropriate training.
- All staff are expected to use their professional judgement at all times, particularly in emergencies
- The school must make sure that correct procedures are followed, keeping accurate records for each child and each incident and liaise with parents accordingly
- The Headteacher is responsible for the day to day decisions about administering medication to children who have medical needs
- An individual health care plan can also help schools to identify the necessary safety measures required to support pupils with medical needs if and when required

School Staff (Teaching and Non-teaching)

- Teachers who have pupils with medical needs in their class should understand the nature of the condition and when and where the pupil may need extra attention
- Staff should be aware of the likelihood of an emergency arising and what action to take if one occurs
- Back-up cover should be arranged for when the member of staff responsible is absent or unavailable
- At different times of the day other staff may be responsible for pupils (i.e.; Lunchtime supervisors). It is important that they are provided with training and advice
- If staff notice a deterioration in a pupil's health over time (or changes to regular routine), they should inform the Headteacher, who should in turn inform the parents

Administering Medication

- Any member of staff who agrees to accept responsibility for administering prescribed medication to a pupil should have proper training and guidance and should check the following: –
 1. The pupil's name
 2. Written instructions provided by parents or doctor
 3. Prescribed dose and frequency
 4. Expiry date
- He or she should be aware of possible side effects of the medication and what to do if they occur
- No pupil should be given medication without his/her parents written consent
- The dosage and administration is to be witnessed by a second adult
- If a pupil refuses to take medication, staff should not force them to do so. The school should inform the parent as a matter of urgency, and if necessary call the emergency services
- Some medicine needs to be refrigerated. Medicines are kept in a separate fridge for medication only- this is located within the Nursery kitchen. **All medication should be in an airtight container and clearly marked.**
- Medicines will be stored safely
- Parents should collect medicines held at school and are responsible for the disposal of date expired medication
- Over the counter medicines may now be administered in school under certain conditions – please refer to the Administration of Medicines policy

There is no legal duty which requires school staff to administer medication, this is a voluntary role.

Hygiene/Infection Control (Incl COVID-19)

- All staff should be familiar with normal precautions for avoiding infection and must follow basic hygiene procedures (enhanced procedure due to COVID-19 of regular hand washing, catch it bin it kill it in respect to sneezing)
- Staff should have access to protective disposable gloves and take care when dealing with spillages of blood or other body fluids and disposing of dressings or equipment

Emergency Procedures

- All staff should know how to call the emergency services
- All staff should know who is responsible for carrying out emergency procedures in the event of need
- A pupil taken to hospital by ambulance should be accompanied by a member of staff who should remain until the pupil's parents arrive
- Generally, staff **should not** take pupils to hospital in their own cars. However, in an emergency it may be the best course of action. That member of staff **should be accompanied** by another adult and have public liability vehicle insurance i.e., for business use
- A copy of health care plan should accompany the child to A&E with prior parental permission

School Trips

- It is good practice for schools to encourage all pupils to participate in school trips
- Staff supervising excursions and overnight trips should always be aware of any (additional) medical needs and relevant emergency procedures
- It may be advisable/appropriate for an additional supervisor or parent to accompany a particular pupil

Sporting Activities

- Most pupils with medical conditions can participate in extra-curricular sport or in the PE curriculum, which is sufficiently flexible for all pupils to follow in ways appropriate to their own abilities
- For many, physical activity can benefit their overall social, mental and physical health and well-being
- Some pupils may need to take precautionary measures before or during exercise and-or need to be allowed immediate access to their medication, if necessary
- Staff supervising sporting activities should always be aware of any medical needs and relevant emergency procedures

Unacceptable practice

Governing bodies should ensure that the school's policy is explicit about what practice is not acceptable.

Although school staff should use their discretion and judge each case on its merits with reference to the child's individual healthcare plan, it is not generally acceptable practice to:

- prevent children from easily accessing their inhalers and medication and administering their medication when and where necessary;
- assume that every child with the same condition requires the same treatment;
- ignore the views of the child or their parents; or ignore medical evidence or opinion (although this may be challenged);
- send children with medical conditions home frequently for reasons associated with their medical condition or prevent them from staying for normal school activities, including lunch, unless this is specified in their individual healthcare plans;
- if the child becomes ill, send them to the school office or medical room unaccompanied or with someone unsuitable;
- penalise children for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical condition, e.g. hospital appointments;
- prevent pupils from drinking, eating or taking toilet or other breaks whenever they need to in order to manage their medical condition effectively;
- require parents, or otherwise make them feel obliged, to attend school to administer medication or provide medical support to their child, including with toileting issues. No parent should have to give up working because the school is failing to support their child's medical needs; or
- prevent children from participating, or create unnecessary barriers to children participating in any aspect of school life, including school trips, e.g. by requiring parents to accompany the child.