

Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs in School

(with thanks to London Borough of Hackney)



This policy was developed through consultation with the staff and governors. It was approved on 19th March 2015, has been reviewed regularly, with the last review taking place in September 2021. It will be reviewed again in September 2023.

*This policy sets out the duty on governing bodies of maintained schools, proprietors of academies and management committees of PRUs to make arrangements for supporting pupils at their school with medical conditions under Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014. In meeting the duty, the governing body, proprietor or management committee **must** have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State under this section (Supporting pupils at school with medical needs (DfE, April 2014)).*
Section 100 came into force on 1 September 2014.

School Context

At Wilby CE VA Primary School we are deeply committed to inspiring our children to learn and reach their full potential. Everyone is valued as an individual and helped to develop and progress in their own unique way within a Christian atmosphere. We are committed to providing pupils with a high quality education whatever their health need, disability or individual circumstances. We believe that all pupils should have access to as much education as their particular medical condition allows, so that they maintain the momentum of their learning whether they are attending school or going through periods of treatment and recuperation. We promote inclusion and will make all reasonable adjustments to ensure that children and young people with a disability, health need or SEN are not discriminated against or treated less favourably than other pupils.

Principles

This policy and any ensuing procedures and practice are based on the following principles:

- All children and young people are entitled to a high quality education;
- Disruption to the education of children with health needs should be minimised;
- If children can be in school they should be in school. Children's diverse personal, social and educational needs are most often best met in school. Our school will make reasonable adjustments where necessary to enable all children to attend school;
- Effective partnership working and collaboration between schools, families, education services, health services and all agencies involved with a child or young person are essential to achieving the best outcomes for the child;
- Children with health needs often have additional social and emotional needs. Attending to these additional needs is an integral element in the care and support that the child requires; and that
- Children and young people with health needs are treated as individuals, and are offered the level and type of support that is most appropriate for their circumstances; staff should strive to be responsive to the needs of individuals.

As a school, we will not engage in unacceptable practice, as follows:

- send children with medical conditions home frequently or prevent them from staying for normal school activities, including lunch, unless this is specified in their individual healthcare plans;
- if a child becomes ill, send them to the school office or medical room unaccompanied or with someone unsuitable;
- prevent pupils from drinking, eating or taking toilet or other breaks whenever they need to in order to manage their medical condition effectively;
- prevent children from easily accessing their inhalers and medication and administering their medication when and where necessary;
- penalise children for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical condition e.g. hospital appointments;
- 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; nor
- 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 their child.

Definition of health needs

For the purpose of this policy, pupils with health needs may be:

- pupils with **chronic or short term health conditions or a disability** involving specific access requirements, treatments, support or forms of supervision during the course of the school day or
- **sick children**, including those who are physically ill or injured or are recovering from medical interventions, or
- children with **mental or emotional health problems**.

This policy does not cover self-limiting infectious diseases of childhood, e.g. measles/chicken pox.

Some children with medical conditions may have a disability. A person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. Where this is the case, governing bodies **must** comply with their duties under the Equality Act 2010. Some may also have special educational needs (SEN) and may have a statement, or Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan which brings together health and social care needs, as well as their special educational provision.

Roles and Responsibilities

All staff have a responsibility to ensure that all pupils at this school have equal access to the opportunities that will enable them to flourish and achieve to the best of their ability. In addition, designated staff have additional responsibilities as well as additional support and training needs.

Named person in school with responsibility for medical policy implementation

The member of staff responsible for ensuring that pupils with health needs have proper access to education is Lisa Pearce. They will be the person with whom parents/carers will discuss particular arrangements to be made in connection with the medical needs of a pupil. It will be their responsibility to pass on information to the relevant members of staff within the school. This person will liaise with other agencies and professionals, as well as parents/carers, to ensure good communication and effective sharing of information. This will enhance pupils' inclusion in the life of the school and enable optimum opportunities for educational progress and achievement.

Parents/carers and pupils

Parents hold key information and knowledge and have a crucial role to play. Both parents and pupils will be involved in the process of making decisions. Parents are expected to keep the school informed about any changes in their children's condition or in the treatment their children are receiving, including changes in medication. Parents will be kept informed about arrangements in school and about contacts made with outside agencies.

School staff

Any member of school staff should know what to do and respond accordingly when they become aware that a pupil with a medical condition needs help. Staff must familiarise themselves with the medical needs of the pupils they work with. Training will be provided in connection with specific medical needs so that staff know how to meet individual needs, what precautions to take and how to react in an emergency.

The Head Teacher

The Head Teacher is responsible for ensuring that all staff are aware of this policy and understand their role in its implementation. The Head Teacher will ensure that all staff who need to know are aware of a child's condition. They will also ensure that sufficient numbers of trained staff are available to implement the policy and deliver against all individual healthcare plans, including in contingency and emergency situations. The Head Teacher has overall responsibility for the development of individual healthcare plans. They will also make sure that school staff are appropriately insured and are aware that they are insured to support pupils in this way. They will contact the school nursing service in the case of any child who has a medical condition that may require support at school, but who has not yet been brought to the attention of the school nurse.

The Governing Body

The governing body is responsible for making arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions in school, including ensuring that this policy is developed and implemented. They will ensure that all pupils with medical conditions at this school are supported to enable the fullest participation possible in all aspects of school life. The governing body will ensure that sufficient staff have received suitable training and are competent before they take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions. They will also ensure that any members of school

staff who provide support to pupils with medical conditions are able to access information and other teaching support materials as needed.

School health teams

School health teams are responsible for notifying the school when a child has been identified as having a medical condition which will require support in school. Wherever possible, they should do this before the child starts at the school. They may support staff on implementing a child's individual healthcare plan and provide advice and liaison.

Other healthcare professionals

GPs and paediatricians should notify the school nurse when a child has been identified as having a medical condition that will require support at school. They may provide advice on developing healthcare plans.

Hospital and Outreach Education works with schools to support pupils with medical conditions to attend full time.

Staff training and support

In carrying out their role to support pupils with medical conditions, school staff will receive appropriate training and support. Training needs will be identified during the development or review of individual healthcare plans. The relevant healthcare professional will lead on identifying and agreeing with the school, the type and level of training required, and how this can be obtained. The school will ensure that training is sufficient to ensure that staff are competent and confident in their ability to support pupils with medical conditions, and to fulfil the requirements as set out in individual healthcare plans.

Staff will not give prescription medicines or undertake health care procedures without appropriate training. A first-aid certificate does not constitute appropriate training in supporting children with medical conditions.

This policy will be publicised to all staff to raise awareness at a whole school level of the importance of supporting pupils with medical conditions, and to make all staff aware of their role in implementing this policy. Information on how this school supports children with health needs is included in our induction procedure for all new staff.

Procedures

Notification

Information about medical needs or SEN is requested on admission to the school. Parents and carers are asked to keep the school informed of any changes to their child's condition or treatment. Whenever possible, meetings with the parents/carers and other professionals are held before the pupil attends school to ensure a smooth transition into the class.

Information supplied by parents/carers is transferred to the Medical Needs Register, which lists the children class by class. A summary of the class Medical Needs Register is kept inside the class attendance register so that it can be referred to easily. The Medical Register is uploaded to CPOMS for all staff to access. Confidentiality is assured by all members of staff.

Any medical concerns the school has about a pupil will be raised with the parents/carers and discussed with the school nurse. Most parents/carers will wish to deal with medical matters themselves through their GP. In some instances the school, after consultation with the parent/carer, may write a letter to the GP (with a copy to the parents) suggesting a referral to a specialist consultant where a full paediatric assessment can be carried out.

Individual Healthcare Plans

Not all children with medical needs will require an individual healthcare plan. The school, healthcare professional and parent should agree, based on evidence, when a healthcare plan would be inappropriate or disproportionate. If consensus cannot be reached, the headteacher will take a final view. *See Appendix 1 for a letter inviting parents into school to discuss the Individual Healthcare Plan.*

Individual healthcare plans will often be essential, such as in cases where conditions fluctuate or where there is a high risk that emergency intervention will be needed. Plans are also likely to be needed in cases where medical conditions are long-term and complex. Plans provide clarity about what needs to be done, when and by whom. *A flow chart for identifying and agreeing the support a child needs, and developing an individual healthcare plan is provided at appendix 2.*

Individual healthcare plans should capture the key information and actions that are required to support the child effectively. The level of detail within plans will depend on the complexity of the child's condition and the degree of support needed. This is important because different children with the same health condition may require very different support. *A template for individual healthcare plans is provided at appendix 3.*

Individual healthcare plans, and their review, may be initiated, in consultation with the parent, by a member of school staff or a healthcare professional involved in providing care to the child. Plans will be drawn up in partnership between the school, parents, and a relevant healthcare professional, e.g. school, specialist or children's community nurse, who can best advise on the particular needs of the child. Pupils will also be involved whenever appropriate.

Partners should agree who will take the lead in writing the plan, but responsibility for ensuring that it is finalised and implemented rests with the school. Plans are reviewed at least annually, or earlier if evidence is presented that the child's needs have changed. Plans are developed with the child's best interests in mind and ensure that the school assesses and manages risks to the child's education, health and social well-being and minimises disruption. Where a child has SEN but does not have a statement or EHC plan, their special educational needs will be referred to in their individual healthcare plan. Where the child has a special educational need identified in a statement or EHC plan, the individual healthcare plan will be linked to or become part of that statement or EHC plan.

Where a child is returning to school following a period of hospital education, the school will work with the appropriate hospital school or the Hospital and Outreach Education to ensure that the individual healthcare plan identifies the support the child will need to reintegrate effectively.

Pupils too ill to attend school

When pupils are too ill to attend, the school will establish, where possible, the amount of time a pupil may be absent and identify ways in which the school can support the pupil in the short term (e.g. providing work to be done at home in the first instance). The school should make a referral to the Hospital and Outreach Education as soon as they become aware that a child is likely to be or has been absent for 15 school days. Where children have long-term health needs, the pattern of illness and absence from school can be unpredictable, so the most appropriate form of support for these children should be discussed and agreed between the school, the family, Hospital and Outreach Education and the relevant medical professionals.

Pregnancy

Young women of compulsory school age who are pregnant are entitled to remain at school whenever and for as long as possible. The school will make reasonable adjustments to enable young pregnant women to remain in school. When there is medical evidence that continuing to attend school would be contrary to the young woman's or the unborn child's wellbeing, the school should make a referral to The Complimentary Education Academy. Following the birth of the baby, young mothers may benefit from home tuition for a temporary period before they return to school.

Medicines in school

Self-management by pupils

Wherever possible, children are allowed to carry their own medicines and relevant devices or are able to access their medicines for self-medication quickly and easily. Children who can take their medicines themselves or manage procedures may require an appropriate level of supervision. If it is not appropriate for a child to self-manage, then relevant staff will help to administer medicines and manage procedures for them.

If a child refuses to take medicine or carry out a necessary procedure, staff will not force them to do so, but follow the procedure agreed in the individual healthcare plan. Parents will then be informed so that alternative options can be considered.

Managing medicines on school premises

Where clinically possible, medicines should be prescribed in dose frequencies which enable them to be taken outside school hours. Medicines will only be administered at school when it would be detrimental to a child's health or school attendance not to do so.

No child under 16 will be given prescription medicines without their parent's written consent - except in exceptional circumstances where the medicine has been prescribed to the child without the knowledge of the parents. In such cases, every effort will be made to encourage the child or young person to involve their parents

while respecting their right to confidentiality. *A template for obtaining parental agreement for the school to administer medicine is provided at appendix 4.*

The school only accepts prescribed medicines that are in-date, labelled, provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include instructions for administration, dosage and storage. The exception to this is insulin which must still be in date, but will generally be available inside an insulin pen or a pump, rather than in its original container. Out of date medication is sent home.

All medicines are stored safely. Children are informed of where their medicines are at all times and are able to access them immediately. Where relevant, they know who holds the key to the storage facility. Medicines and devices such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing meters and adrenaline pens are always readily available to children and not locked away.

A child under 16 will never be given medicine containing aspirin unless prescribed by a doctor. Medication, e.g. for pain relief, will never be administered without first checking maximum dosages and when the previous dose was taken. Parents will be informed.

A child who has been prescribed a controlled drug may legally have it in their possession if they are competent to do so, but passing it to another child for use is an offence. Otherwise, the school will keep controlled drugs that have been prescribed for a pupil securely stored in a non-portable container to which only named staff have access. Controlled drugs will be easily accessible in an emergency. A record is kept of any doses used and the amount of the controlled drug held on Medical Tracker.

School staff may administer a controlled drug to the child for whom it has been prescribed. Staff administering medicines will do so in accordance with the prescriber's instructions. The school keeps a record of all medicines administered to individual children, stating what, how and how much was administered, when and by whom on Medical Tracker. Any side effects of the medication to be administered at school should be noted. 1 member of staff will administer the medication and 1 member of staff will witness this.

When no longer required, medicines will be returned to the parent to arrange for safe disposal. Sharps boxes will always be used for the disposal of needles and other sharps.

Emergency Situations

Where a child has an individual healthcare plan, this will clearly define what constitutes an emergency and explain what to do, including ensuring that all relevant staff are aware of emergency symptoms and procedures. Other pupils in the school will be informed what to do in general terms, such as informing a teacher immediately if they think help is needed. If a child needs to be taken to hospital, staff will stay with the child until the parent arrives, or accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance.

Day trips, Residential and Sporting Activities

Pupils with medical conditions are actively supported to participate in school trips and visits, or in sporting activities. In planning such activities, teachers will undertake the appropriate risk assessment and will take into account how a child's medical condition might impact on their participation. Arrangements for the inclusion of pupils in such activities with any required adjustments will be made by the school unless evidence from a clinician such as a GP states that this is not in the child's best interests.

Liability and Indemnity

The school's insurance arrangements are sufficient and appropriate to cover staff providing support to pupils with medical conditions. Staff providing such support are entitled to view the school's insurance policies.

Complaints

If parents or pupils are dissatisfied with the support provided they should discuss their concerns directly with the school in the first instance. If for whatever reason this does not resolve the issue, they may make a formal complaint via the school's complaints procedure.



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Head Teacher: **Miss Lisa Pearce**

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Supporting Pupils with a Medical Condition – Appendix 1

Dear Parent or Carer,

Thank you for informing us of your child's medical condition. I enclose a copy of the school's policy for supporting pupil at school with medical conditions for your information.

A central requirement of the policy is for an individual healthcare plan to be prepared, which will set out what support your child needs, and how this will be provided. The plan will be developed in partnership between yourselves, your child, the school and the relevant healthcare professional, who will be able to advise us on your child's case. The aim of this partnership is that the school are aware of how to support your child effectively, and provide clarity about what needs to be done, when and by whom. The level of detail within the plan will depend on the complexity of your child's medical condition and the degree of support needed.

It may be that decision is made that your child will not need an individual healthcare plan, but we will need to make judgements about how your child's medical condition will impact on their ability to participate fully in school life, and whether an individual healthcare plan is required to facilitate this.

Please could you contact the school office so that a mutually convenient appointment can be made so that we can discuss the development of your child's individual healthcare plan. The meeting will involve the following people: _____. Please let me know if you would like us to invite any other medical practitioners, healthcare professional or specialist that would be able to provide us with any other evidence which would need to be considered when developing the plan.

If you would like to discuss this further, or would like to speak to me directly, please feel free to contact me.

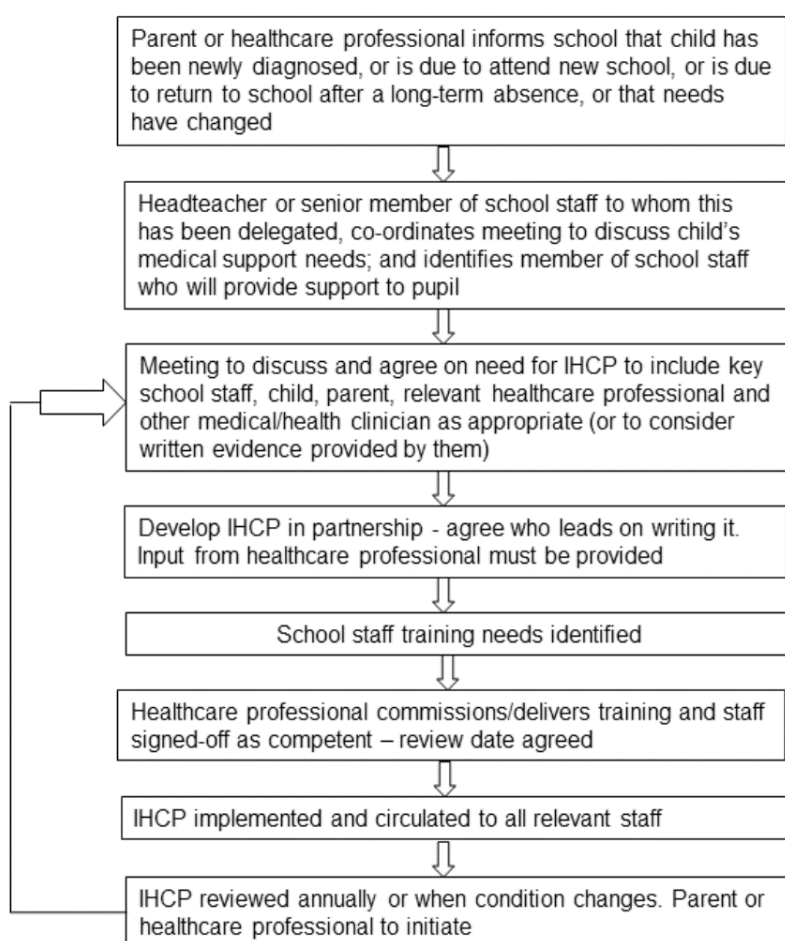
Kind regards

Miss Lisa Pearce

Head Teacher

Supporting Pupils with a Medical Condition – Appendix 2

Flow chart for developing an individual healthcare plan



Supporting Pupils with a Medical Condition – Appendix 3

Individual Healthcare Plan

Pupil's Name		Date of birth	
Class		Medical diagnosis or condition	
Date Individual Healthcare Plan Agreed		Date Individual Healthcare Plan to be Reviewed	

First Contact Name		Second Contact Name	
Relationship to pupil		Relationship to pupil	
Phone no (mobile)		Phone no (mobile)	
Phone no (home)		Phone no (home)	
Phone no (work)		Phone no (work)	

GP Name		Specialist Name	
Phone no		Phone no	
Person(s) responsible for providing support in school		Person(s) responsible for providing support in school	

Describe the medical needs of the pupil

Give details of the pupil's symptoms

What are the triggers and signs?

What treatment is required?

Name of medication and storage instructions (if applicable)
Can pupil administer their own medication: YES/NO
Does pupil require supervision when taking their medication: YES/NO
Arrangements for monitoring taking of medication
Dose, when to be taken, and method of administration
Describe any side effects

Describe any other facilities, equipment, devices etc that might be required to manage the condition

Describe any environmental issues that might need to be considered

Daily care requirements

Arrangements for school visits/trips/out of school activities required

Any other relevant information

Describe what constitutes an emergency and the action to be taken when this occurs

People involved in development of plan



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Supporting Pupils with a Medical Condition – Appendix 4

I request and authorise that (full name of child) be given:

Medication	
Dosage / Time	
Expiry Date	
Expected End Date of Medication	
Medication Prescribed By (whom we can contact for verification)	

The medication is clearly labelled indicating the contents, dosage and the child's full name and is stored in the original container as dispensed.

I authorise a member of staff to administer the medication / my child to self-administer their medication whilst being observed by a member of staff. **** **please delete as applicable**

I indemnify the member of staff against any liability.

I confirm that I am the Parent/Person with Parental Responsibility in respect of the child and accordingly I am legally empowered to give authority for the administration of this medication.

I understand that I must deliver the medication personally to the school office.

I will inform the school immediately, in writing, if there are any changes in dosage or frequency of the medication, or if the medication is stopped.

The above information is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate at the time of signing.

PTO

Parent / Carer Signature:		Date:	
Parent / Carer Name:			
Emergency Contact Number:			
Staff Signature:		Date:	
Staff Name:			
Head Signature:		Date:	
Head Name:			