



## **Medicine and Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions Policy 2024**

This policy was written by School Business Manager, in consultation with  
First Aid lead Miss Bain

For further information please contact: [office@smrc-lit.co.uk](mailto:office@smrc-lit.co.uk)  
or telephone on 01706 378032

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## **Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions**

Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on the Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team of St Mary's RC Primary School to make arrangements for supporting pupils at school with medical conditions. Pupils with special medical needs have the same right of admission to school as other children and cannot be refused admission or excluded from school on medical grounds alone. However, teachers and other school staff in charge of pupils have a common law duty to act in the place of the parent and may need to take swift action in an emergency. This duty also extends to teachers leading activities taking place off the school site. This could extend to a need to administer medicine. The prime responsibility for a child's health lies with the parent who is responsible for the child's medication and should supply the school with information. This Policy will be reviewed regularly and will be readily accessible to Parents/Carers and staff through our website.

### **Policy Implementation**

All schools and academies are expected by Ofsted to have a policy dealing with medical needs and to be able to demonstrate that this is implemented effectively. The overall responsibility for the successful administering and implementation of this Policy is given to the Headteacher. She will also be responsible for ensuring that sufficient staff are suitably trained and will ensure cover arrangements in case of staff absences or staff turnover to ensure that someone is always available and on site. The SENCO will also be responsible for briefing supply teachers regarding any children's needs and care plans. The class teachers will undertake risk assessments for school visits and other school activities outside of the normal timetable and for the monitoring of individual healthcare plans. All staff will be expected to show a commitment and awareness of children's medical conditions. All new members of staff will be inducted into the arrangements and guidelines set out in this Policy.

### **Definitions of Medical Conditions:**

Pupils' medical needs may be broadly summarised as being of two types:

- Short-term affecting their participation in school activities because they are on a course of medication.
- Long-term potentially limiting their access to education and requiring extra care and support (deemed special medical needs).

### **The Role of Staff**

Some children with medical conditions may be disabled. Where this is the case, governing bodies must comply with their duties under the Equality Act 2010. Some may also have Special Educational Needs and may have a statement, Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan which brings together health and social care needs, as well as their special educational provision or a Health Care Plan (HCP) where the child has medical needs that require them to have additional support to access education. For children with SEN, this guidance should be read in conjunction with the SEN Code of Practice.

If a child is deemed to have a long-term medical condition, the school will ensure that arrangements are in place to support them. In doing so, we will ensure that such children can access and enjoy the same opportunities at school as any other child. The school, health professionals, Parents/Carers and other support services will work together to ensure that children with medical conditions receive a full education, unless this would not be in their best interests because of their health needs. In some cases, this will require flexibility and involve, for example, programmes of study that rely on part time attendance at school in combination with alternative provision arranged by the Local Authority and health professionals. Consideration will also be given to how children will be reintegrated back into school after long periods of absence.

Staff must not give prescription medicines or undertake health care procedures without appropriate training (updated to reflect any Individual Health Care Plans). Please note as a temporary measure during Covid-19 that teachers will give medicines in class bubbles to ensure that movement within school is limited. At St Mary's RC Primary School, we recognise that a first-aid certificate does not constitute appropriate training in supporting children with medical conditions. Healthcare professionals, including the school nurse who we have regular access to, will provide training and subsequent confirmation of the proficiency of staff in a medical procedure, or in providing medication.

## **Procedures to be followed when Notification is received that a Pupil has a Medical Condition**

We will ensure that the correct procedures will be followed whenever we are notified that a pupil has a medical condition. The procedures will also be in place to cover any transitional arrangements between schools, the process to be followed upon reintegration or when pupil's needs change and arrangements for any staff training or support.

For children starting at St Mary's, arrangements will be in place in time for the start of the relevant school term. In other cases, such as a new diagnosis or children moving mid-term, we will make every effort to ensure that arrangements are put in place within *two weeks*. In making the arrangements, we will take into account that many of the medical conditions that require support at school will affect quality of life and may be life threatening. We will also acknowledge that some will be more obvious than others. We will therefore ensure that the focus is on the needs of each individual child and how their medical condition impacts on their school life.

We will ensure that arrangements give Parents/Carers and pupils confidence in the school's ability to provide effective support for medical conditions in school. The arrangements will show an understanding of how medical conditions impact on a child's ability to learn, as well as increase their confidence and promote self-care. We will ensure that staff are properly trained to provide the support that pupils need. We will ensure that arrangements are clear and unambiguous about the need to support actively pupils with medical conditions to participate in school trips and visits, or in sporting activities, and not prevent them from doing so. The school will make arrangements for the inclusion of pupils in such activities with any adjustments as required unless evidence from a clinician such as a GP states that this is not possible. We will make sure that no child with a medical condition is denied admission or prevented from attending St Mary's because arrangements for their medical condition have not been made. However, in line with our Safeguarding duties, we will ensure that pupils' health is not put at unnecessary risk from, for example infectious diseases. We will therefore not accept a child in school at times where it would be detrimental to the health of that child or others.

The school does not have to wait for a formal diagnosis before providing support to pupils. In cases where a pupil's medical condition is unclear, or where there is a difference of opinion, judgments will be needed about what support to provide based on the available evidence. This would normally involve some form of medical evidence and consultation with Parents/Carers. Where evidence conflicts, some degree of challenge may be necessary to ensure that the right support can be put in place. This will usually be led by the SENCO/the Senior Leadership team. Following the discussions, an **Individual Health Care Plan** will be put in place, this will be registered on our online portal- Medical Tracker and parents will be asked to confirm.

Where a child has an Individual Health Care Plan, this should 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 should know what to do in general terms, such as informing a teacher immediately if they think help is needed. If a child (regardless of whether they have an Individual Health Care Plan) needs to be taken to hospital, staff should stay with the child until the Parent/Carer arrives, or accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance.

### **Individual Health Care Plans**

Individual Health Care Plans will be written and reviewed by the class teacher in conjunction with the SENCO but it will be the responsibility of all members of staff supporting the individual children to ensure that the Plan is followed. The class teacher will be responsible for the child's development and ensuring that they and their medical conditions are supported at school. Individual Healthcare Plans will help to ensure that the school effectively supports pupils with medical conditions. They will provide clarity about what needs to be done, when and by whom. They will often be essential, such as in cases where conditions fluctuate or where there is a high risk that emergency intervention will be needed. They are likely to be helpful in the majority of other cases too, especially where medical conditions are long-term and complex. However, not all children will require one. The school, health care professional and Parents/Carers should agree, based on evidence, when a Health Care Plan would be inappropriate or disproportionate. If consensus cannot be reached, the Headteacher is best placed to take a final view. A flow chart for identifying and agreeing the support a child needs and developing an individual healthcare plan is provided in Appendix A.

Individual Health Care Plans will be easily accessible to all who need to refer to them, while preserving confidentiality. Plans will 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. Where a child has SEN but does not have a statement or EHC plan, their SEN should be mentioned in their Individual Health Care Plan.

The school use Medical Tracker which is an online portal for creating and safekeeping IHCP's.

The school will ensure that Individual Health Care Plans are reviewed at least annually or earlier if evidence is presented that the child's needs have changed. They will be developed and reviewed 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 wellbeing and minimises disruption. Where the child has a SEN identified in a statement or EHC plan, the Individual Health Care Plan should be linked to or become part of that statement or EHC plan.

### **The Child's Role in managing their own Medical Needs**

If it is deemed, after discussion with the Parents/Carers, that a child is competent to manage their own health needs and medicines, the school will encourage them to take responsibility for managing their own medicines and procedures. This will be reflected within Individual Health Care Plans. Wherever possible, children should be allowed to carry their own medicines and relevant devices or should be able to access their medicines for self-medication quickly and easily; these will be stored in the school Office to ensure that the safeguarding of other children is not compromised. The school does also recognise that children who can take their medicines themselves or manage procedures may require an appropriate level of supervision. If a child is not able to self-medicate then relevant staff should help to administer medicines and manage procedures for them. If a child refuses to take medicine or carry out a necessary procedure, staff should not force them to do so but instead follow the procedure agreed in the Individual Health Care Plan. Parents/Carers should be informed, outside of the review, so that alternative options can be considered.

### **The following are the procedures to be followed for managing medicines:**

- Medicines should 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 should be given prescription or non-prescription medicines without their Parents/Carers consent.

### ***Non-Prescription Medicines***

In order to encourage as far as possible regular school attendance the governors of the school have agreed that if a child needs paracetamol suspension during the school day (Calpol), a dose of this can be given by school with the parents prior consent. Please ensure your child's name is clearly labelled on the bottle. The school holds a bottle of Calpol in stock should this be required during the school day and if permission is given from a parent.

### ***Medicines***

It is appreciated that in certain instances, medicines such as antibiotics have to be taken four times a day, a lunch time dose may be necessary to enable a child to finish the course once well enough to attend school.

It is the policy of the school to encourage and enable, as far as possible, regular school attendance and, in these circumstances, the Headteacher accepts responsibility, in principle, for designated members of staff to administer or supervise children taking prescribed medicines during the school day.

Parents should note that medication will only be given in line with prescription labels, for example, if the prescription states that the medicine should be given an hour before food, school must follow this guidance.

The school will only accept medicines that are in-date, with a prescription label stating name and dosage, 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.

All medicines will be stored safely in the Office unless they need refrigeration when they will be stored in the staff room refrigerator. Children should know where their medicines are at all times and be able to access them immediately.

Medicines and devices such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing meters and adrenaline pens should be always readily available to children and not locked away; these will be stored in the classroom first aid boxes where both class teacher and child know how to access them. **If a child requires asthma inhaler it is crucial that there is an inhaler in the school at all times.**

During school trips, the first aid trained member of staff/member of staff in charge of first aid will carry all medical devices and medicines required. During school trips, group leaders will carry inhalers for younger children and older children (Y5/6 will carry their own) if this is deemed appropriate.

Staff administering medicines should do so in accordance with the prescriber's instructions. The school will keep a record of all medicines administered to individual children, stating what, how and how much was administered, when and by whom. Any side effects of the medication to be administered at school should be noted. Any medicine that is administered within school will be recorded on Medical Tracker which will then send an alert to parents. These records offer protection to staff and children and provide evidence that agreed procedures have been followed.

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

### **Unacceptable Practice**

Although school staff should use their discretion and judge each case on its merits with reference to the child's Individual Health Care 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/Carers; or ignore medical evidence or opinion, (although this may be challenged)
- 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 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/Carers, or otherwise make them feel obliged, to attend the school to administer medication or provide medical support to their child, including with toileting issues. No Parent/Carer 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/Carers to accompany the child.

### **Complaints**

Should Parents/Carers or pupils be dissatisfied with the support provided they should discuss their concerns directly with the school. If for whatever reason this does not resolve the issue, they may make a formal complaint via the complaints procedure outlined in the school's Complaints Policy.

### **Covid-19**

Pupils with medical conditions will continue to be supported throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. During the initial lockdown in March, children defined as clinically vulnerable or extremely clinically vulnerable had to shield at home. This restriction has now been lifted. However, we will still aim to minimize the risk for these pupils and will discuss with their parents any concerns and worries they may have, as well as any additional medical needs in school. There may be times where it is agreed these children may be safer to shield again. This decision will be informed by medical advice and the parent/school together. If shielding, school will support these pupils by ensuring their welfare with regular contact by email or phone calls home and providing children with work to do at home, whether there is a class/local lockdown or whether just that child is working from home. As an inclusive school we value every child as an equal and individual and will do all we can to support their needs. During the COVID pandemic, we will follow the government advice and take medical advice where needed to protect pupils, staff and parents.

Medicines will be stored in the classroom with teachers during Covid-19 to ensure that movement within school is limited. Teachers will ensure the school office have a copy of all medicine forms completed.

## Appendix A – Model for developing Individual Health Ca



