

Greenmount Primary School

Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy

September 2017

Introduction:

Section 100 of The Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on the governing body of a school to make arrangements for supporting children with medical conditions. The Department of Education have produced statutory guidance 'Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions' and we will have regard to this guidance when meeting this requirement.

We will ensure that children with medical conditions are properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. The aim is to ensure that all children with medical conditions, in terms of both their physical and mental health, are properly supported in school so that they can play a full and active role in school life, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential.

It is our policy to ensure that all medical information will be treated confidentially by the Head teacher, SENCo and all other staff. All administration of medicines is arranged and managed in accordance with the Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs document. All staff have a duty of care to follow and co-operate with the requirements of this policy.

Where children have a disability, the requirement of the Equality Act 2010 will apply.

Where children have an identified special need, the SEN Code of Practice will also apply.

We recognise that medical conditions may impact social and emotional development as well as having educational implications.

Key Roles and Responsibilities

Statutory Requirement: The governing body should ensure that the school's policy clearly identifies the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in the arrangements they make to support children at school with medical conditions.

The Governing Body is responsible for:

Making arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions in school, including making sure that a policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions in school is developed and implemented. They will ensure that pupils with medical conditions 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.

The Head teacher is responsible for:

Ensuring that the school's policy is developed and effectively implemented with partners. This includes ensuring that all staff are aware of the policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions and understand their role in its implementation. They will also make sure that school staff are appropriately insured and are aware that they are insured to support pupils in this way.

The SENCo is responsible for:

Making sure that all staff who need to know are aware of the child's condition. They will also ensure that sufficient trained numbers of staff are available to implement the policy and deliver against all individual healthcare plans, including in contingency and emergency situations. The SENCo has overall responsibility for the development of individual healthcare plans. They will contact the school nursing team 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.

Teachers and Support Staff are responsible for:

Providing support to pupils with medical conditions, including the administering of medicines, although they cannot be required to do so. Although administering medicines is not part of teachers' professional duties, they should take into account the needs of pupils with medical conditions that they teach. School staff will receive sufficient and suitable training and achieve the necessary level of competency before they take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions. 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

The School Nursing Team 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 will ensure that school is taking appropriate steps to support children with medical conditions and may support staff on implementing a child's individual healthcare plan and provide advice and training. School nurses can liaise with medical agencies to advise on appropriate support for the child and possible staff training needs.

Identifying Children with Medical Conditions

Statutory Requirement: The Governing body will ensure that the policy sets out the procedures to be followed whenever a school is notified that a pupil has a medical condition.

We will aim to identify children with medical needs on entry to the school by working in partnership with parents / carers. Where a formal diagnosis is awaited or is unclear, we will plan to implement arrangements to support the child, based on the current evidence

available for their condition. We will ensure that every effort is made to involve some formal medical evidence and consultation with the parents and other agencies if relevant.

Individual Health Care Plan

Statutory Requirement: The Governing body will ensure that the school's policy covers the role of individual healthcare plans, and who is responsible for their development in supporting children at school with medical conditions.

We recognise that Individual Healthcare Plans are recommended in particular where conditions fluctuate, there is a high risk that emergency intervention will be needed or where medical conditions are long term and complex. However, not all children will require one. The school, healthcare professional and parent will agree based on evidence when a healthcare plan would be appropriate.

Where children require an individual healthcare plan it will be the responsibility of the SENCo to work with parents/carers and relevant healthcare professionals to write the plan. The SENCo will work in partnership with the parents/carers, and a relevant healthcare professional to review the plan. Where a child has a special educational need identified in an Education and Health Care (EHC) plan, the individual healthcare plan will become part of the EHC plan.

Statutory Requirement: The governing body should ensure that all plans are reviewed at least annually or earlier if evidence is presented that the child's needs have changed. Plans should be developed with the child's best interests in mind and ensure that the school assesses and manages the risks to the child's education, health and social well-being and minimise disruption.

The SENCo will meet with the Class Teachers on a half termly basis and plans will be reviewed as part of this process.

Statutory Requirement: When deciding what information should be recorded on individual healthcare plans, the governing body should consider the following:

- The medical condition, its triggers, signs, symptoms and treatments;
- The pupil's resulting needs, including medication (dose, side effects and storage) and other treatments, time, facilities, equipment, testing, access to food and drink where this is used to manage their condition, dietary requirements and environmental issues
- Specific support for the pupil's educational, social and emotional needs – for example, how absences will be managed:

- Level of support needed (some children will be able to take responsibility for their own health needs) including in emergencies. If a child is self-managing their medication, this should be clearly stated with appropriate arrangements for monitoring
- Who will provide this support, their training needs, expectations of their role and confirmation of proficiency to provide support for the child's medical condition from a healthcare professional and cover arrangements for when they are unavailable
- Who in the school needs to be aware of the child's condition and the support required
- Arrangements for written permission from parents and the Head teacher for medication to be administered by a member of staff, or self-administered by the pupil during school hours
- Separate arrangements or procedures required for school trips or other school activities outside of the normal school timetable that will ensure the child can participate, eg risk assessments
- Where confidentiality issues are raised by the parent/child, the designated individuals to be entrusted with information about the child's condition and what to do in an emergency

Staff Training

Statutory Requirement: The Governing Body should ensure that this policy clearly sets out how staff will be supported in carrying out their role to support children with medical conditions, and how this will be reviewed. It should specify how training needs will be assessed and by whom training will be commissioned and provided.

The school policy should be clear that any member of school staff providing support to a child with medical needs should have received suitable training.

Staff must not administer prescription medicines or undertake any health care procedures without the appropriate training

All nominated staff will be provided awareness training on the school's policy for supporting children with medical conditions which will include what their role is in implementing the policy. We will retain evidence that staff have been provided the relevant awareness training on the policy by completing signature sheets.

Where required we will work with the relevant healthcare professionals to identify and agree the type and level of training required and identify where the training can be obtained from. This will include ensuring that the training is sufficient to ensure staff are competent and confident in their ability to support children with medical conditions. The training will include preventative and emergency measures.

The Child's Role

Statutory Requirement: The Governing body will ensure that the school's policy covers arrangements for children who are competent to manage their own health needs and medicines.

Where possible and in discussion with parents, children that are competent will be encouraged to take responsibility for managing their own medicines and procedures. This will be recorded in their individual healthcare plan.

Managing Medicines at School

Statutory Requirement: The Governing Body will ensure that the school's policy is clear about the procedures to be followed for managing medicines.

The administration of medicines is the overall responsibility of the parents/carers. Where clinically possible we will encourage parents to ask for medicines to be prescribed in dose frequencies which enable them to be taken outside of school hours. The SENCo is responsible for ensuring children are supported with their medical needs whilst at school and this may include managing medicines where it would be detrimental to a child's health or school attendance not to do so.

We will only give prescription or non-prescription medicines to a child under 16 with their parent's/carer's written consent. Documented tracking system to record all medicines received in and out of the premises will be put in place. The name of the child, dose, expiry and shelf life dates will be checked before medicines are administered.

We will only accept prescribed medicines that are in date, labelled, provided in the original container as dispensed by the pharmacist and include instructions for administration, their dosage and storage. Insulin is the exception, which must still be in date but will generally be available to schools inside an insulin pen or a pump, rather than its original container. Inhalers are stored in a safe but readily accessible place in the child's classroom and clearly marked with the child's name.

Controlled drugs will be securely stored in a non-portable container which only named staff will have access to. We will ensure that the drugs are easily accessible in an emergency situation. A record will be kept of any doses used and the amount of the controlled drug held in school. We will never administer aspirin or medicine containing Ibuprofen to any child unless prescribed by a doctor.

Emergency medicines will be stored in a safe location but not locked away to ensure they are easily accessible in the case of an emergency.

Types of emergency medicines include:

- Injections of adrenaline for acute allergic reactions
- Inhalers for asthmatics

Storage

All medication other than emergency medication will be stored safely in a locked cabinet, where the hinges cannot be easily tampered with and cannot be easily removed from the premise.

Where medicines need to be refrigerated, they will be stored in a fridge in the school office in a clearly labelled airtight container. There must be restricted access to a refrigerator holding medicines.

Children will be made aware of where their medicines are at all times and be able to access them immediately where appropriate. Where relevant they should know who holds the key to the storage facility.

Medicines such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing meters and adrenaline pens will always be readily available to children and not locked away. We will also ensure that they are readily available when outside of the school premises or on school trips.

Disposal

It is the responsibility of the parents/carers to dispose of their child's medicines. It is our policy to return any medicines that are no longer required including those where the date has expired to the parents/carers.

Medical Accommodation

The Administration office will be used for all medical administration/treatment purposes. The location/room will be made available when required.

Record Keeping

Statutory Requirement: The governing body should ensure that written records are kept of all medicines administered to children.

A record of what has been administered including how much, when and by whom, will be recorded on a 'record of prescribed medicines' form. The form will be kept on file. Any possible side effects of the medication will also be noted and reported to the parent/carers.

Emergency Procedures

Statutory Requirement: The Governing body will ensure that the school's policy sets out what should happen in an emergency situation.

Where a child has an individual healthcare plan this will clearly define what constitutes an emergency and provide a process to follow. All relevant staff will be made aware of the emergency symptoms and procedures. We will ensure other children in the school know what to do in the event of an emergency such as informing a teacher immediately if they are concerned about the health of another child.

Where a child is required to be taken to hospital, a member of staff will stay with the child until their parents arrives, this includes accompanying them to hospital by ambulance if necessary (taking any relevant medical information and care plans that the school holds).

School Trips

Statutory Requirement: The Governing body should ensure that their 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.

We will ensure that teachers are aware of how a child's medical condition will impact on their participation in any off site activity or day trip, but we will ensure that there is enough flexibility for all children to participate according to their own abilities within reasonable adjustments.

We will consider what reasonable adjustments we might make to enable children with medical needs to participate fully and safely on visits. We will carry out a risk assessment so that planning arrangements take account of any steps needed to ensure that pupils with medical conditions are included. We will consult with parents and pupils and advice from the relevant healthcare professional to ensure that pupils can participate safely.

Unacceptable Practice

Statutory Requirement: The governing body will ensure that the school's policy is explicit about what practice is not acceptable.

Staff are expected to use their discretion and judge each child's individual healthcare plan on its merits, 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
- 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, eg. 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
- Prevent children from participating, or create unnecessary barriers to children participating in any aspect of school life, including school trips eg. Requiring parents to accompany the child.

Liability and Indemnity

Statutory Requirement: The governing body will ensure that the appropriate level of insurance is in place and appropriately reflects the level of risk.

Complaints

Statutory Requirement: The governing body will ensure that the school's policy sets out how complaints may be made and will be handled concerning the support provided to pupils with medical conditions.

Should parents or children be dissatisfied with the support provided they can discuss their concerns directly with the Class teacher, SENCo or Head teacher. If for whatever reason this does not resolve the issue they can make a formal complaint via the school's complaints procedure.

