



## **POLICY FOR SUPPORTING PUPILS AT SCHOOL WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS (INCORPORATING MEDICINES POLICY)**

### **Introduction**

Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on the Governing Board to make arrangements for supporting pupils at St John's 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.**

Teachers and school staff in charge of pupils have a common law duty to act in the place of the parent (in loco parentis) and may need to take swift action in an emergency. This duty also extends to teachers/adults 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 all the necessary information.

This policy will be reviewed regularly and will be readily accessible to Parents/Carers and Staff on our school website.

### **Background**

All schools must have a policy to make arrangements to support children with medical conditions and to be able to demonstrate that this is implemented effectively.

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).

Some children with medical conditions may be considered to be disabled under the definition set out in the Equality Act 2010. Where this is the case, Epping Upland will comply with their duties



under that Act.

Some children may also have special educational needs (SEND) and may have a statement, or Education and Healthcare Plan (EHCP), which brings together health and social care needs, as well as their special educational provision. For children with SEND (Special Educational Needs and/or Disability), this guidance should be read in conjunction with the Special educational needs and disability (SEND) code of practice 2014.

If a child is deemed to have a long-term medical condition, the school aims to ensure that arrangements are in place to support them, and 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. At Epping Upland, we recognise that a first aid certificate does not constitute appropriate training in supporting children with medical conditions. Healthcare professionals, including the School Nurse, will be asked to provide any necessary training and subsequent confirmation of the proficiency of staff to carry out a medical procedure, or in providing medication.

## **Roles and Responsibilities** (as detailed in the statutory guidance)

### **The Governing Body**

- **Must make 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 should ensure that pupils with medical conditions are supported to enable the fullest participation possible in all aspects of school life.
- **Should ensure that sufficient staff have received suitable training and are competent before they take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions.** They should 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 Headteacher**

- Should ensure that their school's policy is developed and effectively implemented.
- Should ensure that all staff members are aware of the policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions and understand their role in its implementation.
- Should ensure that all staff members who need to know are aware of the child's condition.
- Should ensure that sufficient trained numbers of staff are available to implement the policy and deliver all individual healthcare plans, including in contingency and emergency situations. This may involve recruiting a member of staff for this purpose.
- Has the overall responsibility for the development of individual healthcare plans.
- Should make sure that school staff are appropriately insured and are aware that they are



insured to support pupils in this way.

- Should 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.

## **School staff**

- Any member of staff may be asked to provide support to pupils with medical conditions, including the administration 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 should 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 the school staff should know what to do and respond accordingly when they become aware that a pupil with a medical condition needs help.

## **The School Nurse**

- Is responsible for notifying the school when a child has been identified as having a medical condition which will require support in school.
- May support staff on implementing a child's individual healthcare plan and provide advice and liaison, for example on training.
- Can liaise with lead clinicians locally on appropriate support for the child and associated staff training needs.

## **Other healthcare professionals, including 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.
- May provide advice on developing healthcare plans.
- May be able to provide support in schools for children with particular conditions e.g. asthma, diabetes, epilepsy.

## **Pupils with medical conditions (where appropriate for their age)**

- Are often best placed to provide information about how their condition affects them.
- Should be fully involved in discussions about their medical support needs and contribute as much as possible to the development of, and comply with, their individual healthcare plan.
- Other pupils will often be sensitive to the needs of those with medical conditions.

## **Parents**

- Should provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs.
- Should be involved in the development and review of their child's individual healthcare plan, and may be involved in its drafting.
- Should carry out any action they have agreed to as part of its implementation, e.g. provide medicines and equipment and ensure they or another nominated adult are contactable at all times.



- Must ensure all medicines (including over the counter products – OTC) are prescribed by a healthcare professional, ie GP. Medicines which have not been prescribed by a healthcare professional for a child, will only be administered at school in exceptional circumstances and in the case of an emergency. If a child requires an OTC medicine on a regular basis, it must be prescribed by a GP and will then be managed as part of a short term medical requirement.
- Please note antihistamines (ie, Piriton or Piritize) will not be administered at school unless prescribed by a GP.
- Must ensure that all prescribed medicines are supplied to the school in the original packaging, with a pharmacy label containing the child's details, including dosage etc. The medicine must be in date and any contents also labelled with a pharmacy label, for example, inhalers.

## Local Authorities

- Are commissioners of school nurses.
- Under section 10 of the Children Act 2004, they have a duty to promote cooperation between relevant partners such as governing bodies of maintained schools, clinical commissioning groups and NHS England, with a view to improving the wellbeing of children with regard to their physical and mental health, and their education.
- Should provide support, advice and guidance, including suitable training for school staff, to ensure that the support specified within individual healthcare plans can be delivered effectively.
- Should work with schools to support pupils with medical conditions to attend full time.
- Where a pupil would not receive suitable education in a mainstream school because of their health needs, the local authority has a duty to make other arrangements.
- Statutory guidance for local authorities, Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs, January 2013, sets out that they should be ready to make arrangements under this duty when it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days or more because of health needs (whether consecutive or cumulative across the school year).

## Procedures at Epping Upland

Epping Upland may be notified that a child has a medical condition when he/she first joins the school, often at the start of Reception; or at a later date, following a new diagnosis.

### Starting at Epping Upland

As part of the induction process, parent(s)/carer(s) are interviewed by a member of the school administration team, and are required to complete a questionnaire that includes questions on their child's health and any long term or short term medical needs. If a long term medical need is identified, the parent will be asked to complete an Individual Health Care Plan (IHP) for their child,



in conjunction with any relevant medical professionals, and then to meet with the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo), who has responsibility for overseeing the support for

pupils with medical conditions. Copies of reports from medical professionals should be brought to this meeting.

### **Pupil receiving a new diagnosis**

The school may be informed by a pupil's parent, or a medical professional, that a pupil has a newly diagnosed illness or medical condition. The parent will be asked to complete an Individual Health Care Plan for their child, in conjunction with any relevant medical professionals, and then to meet with the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo), who has responsibility for overseeing the support for pupils with medical conditions. Copies of reports from medical professionals should be brought to this meeting.

### **Following Notification of a Long-term Medical Condition**

- The school will make every effort to ensure that arrangements are put in place as soon as possible.
- If the child will require the administration of medication of any kind, a consent form must be completed by the parent/carer and given in at the front desk, together with the medication in its original packaging, with the dosage regime clearly printed on the outside, together with the child's name.
- In making the arrangements, the school 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.
- The school will also acknowledge that some medical conditions will be more obvious than others.
- The school will therefore aim to ensure that the focus is on the needs of each individual child and how their medical condition impacts on their school life.
- The school will endeavour to make sure 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 demonstrate an understanding of how medical conditions impact on a child's ability to learn, as well as increase their confidence and promote self-care.
- The school will ensure that staff members are properly trained to provide the support that pupils need.
- The school will ensure that arrangements are clear and unambiguous about the need to support pupils with medical conditions to participate in school trips and visits, or in sporting activities, and not prevent them from doing so, unless it would not be in their best interest owing to their health needs.
- 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 General Practitioner (GP) states that this is not possible.
- The school aims to ensure that no child with a medical condition is denied admission or prevented from attending because arrangements for their medical condition have not been made.



- However, in line with our Safeguarding duties, the school will ensure that a pupil's health is not put at unnecessary risk from, for example, infectious diseases.
- The school will therefore not accept a child in school at times where it would be detrimental to the health of that child and others. (Please refer to the School's Accessibility Plan for additional information on how the school will support children with medical conditions.)
- 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, judgements will be needed about what support to provide based on the available evidence. This would normally involve some sort 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. The Headteacher, School Nurse and SENCo will usually lead this. Following the discussions a Health Care Plan may be put in place.*
- 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 members are aware of emergency symptoms and procedures.
- Other pupils should know what to do in general terms, such as informing a teacher immediately if they think help is needed.
- It may be necessary to make special arrangements for a pupil on reintegration, following illness; or whenever a pupil's needs change, including arrangements for any staff training and support.
- If a pupil with a long-term medical condition transfers to another school, arrangements will be made, in consultation with the parent, to ensure that all the relevant information is communicated to the new school.

## Individual Health Care Plans (IHPs)

At St John's, the responsibility for overseeing the support for pupils with medical conditions has been delegated to the SENCo, working alongside the Headteacher. This duty is carried out in conjunction with the parent(s)/carer(s), the School Nurse, and any other Healthcare Professionals involved in providing care to the child. Whenever appropriate, the child should also be involved.

It is the responsibility of **all** members of staff supporting the individual children to ensure that the Individual Health Care Plan is followed.

The Class Teacher will remain responsible for the child's educational development and ensuring that their medical conditions are supported at school, and the advice on the Individual Health Care Plan is adhered to. This will involve keeping all staff members, including support or cover staff, informed about the needs of a pupil with medical needs.

## Individual Health Care Plans

- help to ensure that the school effectively supports pupils with medical conditions.



- will capture the key information and actions that are required to support the child effectively.
- will vary in detail from pupil to pupil depending on the complexity of the child's condition and the degree of support needed.
- provide clarity about what needs to be done, when and by whom.
- are often essential, such as in cases where conditions fluctuate or where there is a high risk that emergency intervention may be needed.
- are helpful in the majority of other cases, especially where intervention may be needed or where medical conditions are long term and complex.
- should mention if a pupil has, in addition, special educational needs.
- will be easily accessible to all who need to refer to them, while preserving confidentiality. A copy will be kept in the front office, in the Barn and in the classroom 'SPOT' folder.
- should be taken on all school outings and off-site activities.
- are reviewed annually, or when a child's needs change.

*However, not all children will require one. The School, Healthcare Professionals and Parent/Carers should agree, based on evidence, when an Individual Health Care Plan would be inappropriate or disproportionate. If consensus cannot be reached, the Healthcare Professional is best placed to take a final view.*

### **Following Notification of a Short-term Medical Condition**

Occasionally, children have a short-term medical condition such as earache or a sore throat, and are well enough to attend school, but may still be taking a course of medication.

Where possible, medication should be administered at home.

The administration of medicine is the responsibility of parents and carers. There is no absolute requirement on teachers or support staff to administer medicines. However, they may volunteer to do so.

If medication is required during the school day, then a parent or carer will be required to complete a consent form at the same time as handing in the medicine to the Front Office.

We have been advised that non-prescribed medicines such as Calpol can only be given to a child for a maximum of 3 days.

Prescribed medication should only be accepted if it is in date, in the original dispensed container with clear instructions for dose and storage. It should be clearly labelled with the child's name and class.

It is the parent or carer's responsibility to collect and supply each day, as necessary.



## **Managing medicines in school**

The School has a policy for the managing of medicines based on the following points:

- Medicines should only be administered at the 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 written consent.
- Parents must sign a consent form (short or long term) and medicines must be labelled and given in at the front office.
- Inhalers are stored in the classroom and must not be locked away. They are always available to pupils, and should be taken out for PE/Games outside, and on all outings.
- Epipens are stored in the classroom. Each pupil's epipens are stored in a plastic tub and have their name and photograph on the front.
- Medicines such as antihistamines are stored in a locker in the front office, only accessible by adults.
- Should short-term medicines, such as an antibiotic, require refrigeration, it will be placed in the fridge in the Finance Manager's office.
- Inhalers can be self-administered by pupils, under the supervision of an adult.
- The supervising adult will sign the appropriate sheet when a medicine has been administered.

## **What to do in an emergency:**

**Request an ambulance - dial 999, ask for an ambulance and be ready with the information below.**

**Speak clearly and slowly and be ready to repeat information if asked.**

1. your telephone number
2. your name
3. your location as follows Epping Upland C.of E. Primary School
4. state what the postcode is – CM16 6QJ
5. provide the exact location of the patient within the school setting
6. provide the name of the child and a brief description of their symptoms
7. inform Ambulance Control of the best entrance to use and state that the crew will be met and taken to the patient





8. put a completed copy of this form by the phone

## Unacceptable Practice

Although School Staff should use their discretion and judge each case on its merits with reference to the child's IHP, it is not generally acceptable practice to:

- 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 IHPs.
- If the child becomes ill, send them to the school office 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 children 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 toileting issues.
- No Parent/Carer 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, e.g. by requiring Parents/Carers to accompany the child, unless this is in the best interest of the child, or for Health and Safety reasons.

## Complaints

Should Parents/Carers or Pupils be dissatisfied with the support provided, they should discuss their concerns directly with the Class Teacher, SENCo or Headteacher. If, for whatever reason, this does not resolve the issue, parents may make a formal complaint, details of which are outlined in the school's Complaints Procedure.

## Policy to be Reviewed 2023

### Appendices

1. Flowchart for Individual Health Care Plans
2. Parental Agreement to Administer Medicine
3. Parental Permission – Long Term Medicine

## Flowchart for Long-term Medical Needs and Health Care Plans

School has been informed that a pupil has a medical condition or a change in their medical needs

School asks the parent/carer to complete a pro-forma for an Individual Health Care Plan and to arrange a meeting with the SENCo, who oversees the support for pupils with medical needs.

The parent or carer attends the meeting and brings with them any relevant medical evidence.

A draft Health Care Plan is completed, ready for consultation with the School Nurse.

Any relevant consent forms, for administering any medicines are completed.

All medicine in school must be clearly named with the child's name and class, and be in its original packaging that details the dosage.

Parents must check that the medicine remains in date, and is given in at the Front Office to a member of the Office Staff.

Staff Training needs are identified and commissioned, if required.

The final Individual Health Care Plan is signed by the School Nurse and all the necessary arrangements are in place.

A copy of the final Health Care Plan is stored in the Front Office, the Barn (first aid) and the Class Teacher's SPOT folder.

Staff are alerted to the new plan.

The child's name is added to the school's Medical Register.

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## Parental agreement to administer medicine/support child with medical condition

The school will not give your child medicine unless you complete and sign this form.

<b>Name of Child:</b>	
<b>Class:</b>	
<b>Completed by (print name):</b>	
<b>Relationship to Child:</b>	
<b>I understand that I must monitor and replace medication prior to the expiry date. <i>Note: it is the responsibility of the Parent/Carer to ensure all medication is available and fit for purpose. Failure to comply with this may compromise your child's health.</i></b>  <b>Signed:</b>	

**The School and Parent/Carer must retain a copy.**



**NB: Medicines must be in the original container as dispensed by the pharmacy**

Medical Condition	Name/Type of medicine (as described on the container)	Expiry date	Dosage and Method	Self-administration – y/n	Procedures to take in an emergency

The above information is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate at the time of writing and I give consent to school staff administering medicine in accordance with the school policy. I will inform the school immediately, in writing by emailing [admin@st-johns-buckhursthill.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-johns-buckhursthill.essex.sch.uk), if there is any change in dosage or frequency of the medication or if the medicine is stopped.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_