



“I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness.”
John 10:10

Children with Medical Conditions Policy

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Next review:	Autumn 2018
Signed (Chair of Governors):	
Statutory policy: Yes/No	On school website: Yes/No

CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS POLICY

(This policy is based on the Somerset LA model policy dated November 2014.)

1. Introduction

The governor with responsibility for SEN and the headteacher will aim to ensure that all children, including those with medical conditions, can continue to enjoy learning, friendships and play.

Parents have the prime responsibility for their child's health and are required to provide the school (via the headteacher) with information about their child's medical condition before they are admitted to the school, or as soon as the child first develops a particular medical need.

2. Pupils with short-term medical needs

If children are unwell and unable to cope with a busy school day or if the child has an infectious or contagious condition they should not be sent to school. If they become ill during the day, parents/carers will be contacted by the school office in order that the child can be taken home.

Many children will need to take medicines during the day at some time during their time in school. This will usually be for a short period only, perhaps to finish a course of prescribed antibiotics. Where possible, doses should be given before or after school, however, medicines may be brought into school if it would be detrimental to the child not to do so. Medicines should be brought to school in the original containers with the labels attached.

Parents should inform the school (using the forms available from the school office) about the medicines that their child needs to take and provide details of any further support required.

3. Responsibility for administering prescribed medication

The school will ensure that there are sufficient members of support staff who are employed, appropriately trained and willing to manage medicines. The type of training necessary will depend on the individual case. If they are in doubt about any procedure, staff will not administer the medicines but will check with the parents or a health professional before taking further action.

4. Record-keeping

Staff will complete and sign a record each time they give medicine to a child. (These are filed in children's individual record cards when the course of prescribed medicine is completed.)

5. Refusal to take medicine

If a child refuses to take medicine, staff will not force them to do so, but will note this in the records and inform parents of the refusal immediately.

If a refusal to take medicines results in an emergency, then the usual emergency procedures will be followed.

6. Storage of medication

All emergency medicines, such as asthma inhalers and adrenaline pens, will be safely stored and will be readily available. They will not be locked away and where children are considered safely able to take care of their own medicines they will be supported so to do.

Some medicines need to be refrigerated. These will be kept in, and access will be restricted to, the refrigerator holding medicines.

7. Absence from school for more than 15 days

For those children who attend hospital appointments or are admitted to hospital on a regular basis, special arrangements may also need to be considered. In this event advice may be sought from the Medical/PEVP (Panel for Excluded and Vulnerable Pupils) panel who might offer additional support from the Link Education Centres.

Children with medical needs may be unable to attend school for many reasons relating to their condition and in this event the school will make arrangements to link the child to suitable learning opportunities and will facilitate their links with other children so that friendships are sustained.

8. Pupils with Long Term or Complex Medical Needs

Where a child's needs are particularly complex and could affect their ability to access the full curriculum or participate in other areas of school life, then special arrangements will be made. The PIMS (Physical Impairment and Medical Support) Team and Special Educational Needs Information Technology Advisory Support (SENITAS) may be contacted to support any adaptations to the curriculum.

In some cases this might take the form of dedicated adult support, at certain times of the school day. Alternatively, the child's needs could be such that modifications to the learning environment and /or the provision of specialist aids will need to be considered.

9. Individual Health Care Plans

9.1 A written, individual Health Care Plan (HCP) will be developed where needed, to clarify for staff, parents and the child, the support that will be provided and what training may be required. This will include:

- details of the child's medical condition;

- any medication;
- daily care requirements;
- action to be taken in an emergency;
- parents/carers details including emergency contact numbers.

9.2 Those who may contribute to an HCP include:

- the school nurse, specialist nurses, children's community nurses, the child's GP or other health care professionals (depending on the level of support needed);
- the parents/carers and the child, if appropriate;
- the headteacher and SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator);
- the class teacher, care assistant or teaching assistant;
- support staff who are trained to administer medicines or trained in emergency procedures;
- PIMS Team.

9.3 It is good practice to have an HCP endorsed by a health care professional and in many cases it is essential to do so.

9.4 The school will agree with parents how often they should jointly review a health care plan. The timing of this will depend on the nature of the child's particular needs. In most cases this will take place at the start of each school year; however, some plans will need to be reviewed more frequently depending on individual needs.

9.5 HCPs and training are not transferable, even when children have the same condition.

10. Training

10.1 If school staff need to be trained to administer medical procedures the school will contact the relevant health care professional, e.g. school nurse, specialist nurse or children's community nurse. Parents cannot be responsible for leading this training but parents and children will be asked to participate in the training and give advice and guidance on how they prefer things to be done.

Parents and school staff cannot cascade training that they have received when the training is specific to an individual child.

10.2 School staff who have been trained are responsible for following and delivering the HCP and if the child's condition alters they will contact an appropriate professional and the parents, making them aware of the change and requesting further training if needed or an alteration to the plan.

10.3 School staff will request further training when needed, and professional updates at least once a year.

10.4 Staff who have been trained in the child's care are responsible for following the procedures in children's care plans as they have been trained to do.

- 10.5** The SENCO/headteacher will liaise with health care professionals and the trained staff to support and facilitate training refreshers and updates as needed.
- 10.6** Individual staff are responsible for identifying and communicating any changes that they notice in the child's care needs. The SENCO will inform parents and health care professionals in writing and discuss whether further training is needed.
- 11. Responsibility for communicating needs**
- 11.1 School Business Manager**
A confidential file containing photographs of pupils with medical needs, together with outlines of their medical condition and action to be taken, is available to all teaching and support staff in the school office.
- 11.2 SENCO**
The SENCO shall ensure further copies and full medical records are stored in the child's personal file.
- 11.3 Class Teachers**
Class teachers are responsible for ensuring HCPs for individual children are kept in the classroom where they are accessible to all staff involved in caring for the child.
- 12. Educational visits (see also school's Trips Policy)**
- 12.1** Visits and school residential trips will be planned so that pupils with medical needs can participate, and reasonable adjustments will be made as appropriate to ensure that they are not discriminated against. If a risk assessment indicates that it is not safe for the pupil to participate in part of the experience because of their condition, then reasonable adjustments will be made and an alternative experience will be provided to ensure that they are enabled to join in the curriculum surrounding the trip.
- 12.2** Staff supervising excursions and residential trips will always make sure that they are aware of any medical needs, and relevant emergency procedures. Parents of children participating in residential trips will need to complete required consent forms giving details of all medical/dietary needs. All medication or equipment which needs to be administered during the course of the visit should be handed directly to the class teacher in accordance with the school's guidelines before leaving the school at the start of the trip.
- 12.3** A copy of individual HCP plans will be taken on visits in the event of the information being needed in an emergency.
- 12.4** The visit leader shall be responsible for making arrangements for taking any necessary medicines and, if necessary, an additional member of the support staff, or an appropriate volunteer might be needed to accompany a particular child. Children's parents will not be required to accompany their own children on school trips.

12.5 The visit leader shall consult with parents and medical advice sought from the school health service or the child's GP if there are any concerns about whether the school is able to provide for a child's safety or the safety of other children on a visit.

13. Sporting Activities

13.1 All children with medical conditions will be encouraged to participate as fully as possible in physical activities and extra-curricular sport. For many, physical activity can benefit their overall social, mental and physical health and well-being. Staff will be sensitive to their individual needs and sufficient flexibility will be incorporated into the lesson planning for all children to be included in ways appropriate to their own abilities.

13.2 Any restrictions on a child's ability to participate in PE will be recorded in their individual HCP. This will include a reference to any issues of privacy and dignity for children with particular needs.

13.3 Some children may need to take precautionary measures before or during exercise, and may also need to be allowed immediate access to their medicines such as asthma inhalers.

14. Insurance

This is a maintained school. The governing body will ensure that an appropriate level of insurance is in place and appropriately reflects the level of risk. We link to the local authority as employers who are responsible for insurance arrangements of LA schools and their employees.

15. Unacceptable Practice

It is not acceptable:

- to place children at risk for any reason;
- to exclude children from curriculum activities because of their medical condition;
- to place requirements and responsibilities on parents to fill gaps in staffing or resources.

16. Reviewing the policy

The Children with Medical Conditions Policy will be reviewed annually by the School Business Manager and Health and SENCO.