



SUPPORTING PUPILS WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Policy reviewed March 2022

Next review March 2024

Aims

We aim to establish a caring school community, where all pupils are valued and can develop a love of learning.

We strive to support our pupils to:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve in their learning
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

Our Philosophy

Our School is committed to the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. We strive to be a Right's Respecting School in all that we do.

We believe that all members of the school community have rights and responsibilities. Everyone at school is important and is to be valued. We expect each individual to respect other individuals, their families, their culture and beliefs. We aim

to be courteous and fair in our dealings with each other and the children.

This policy, as with all other policies, takes into account the schools SEN Policy in its implementation.

Definition

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

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

Rationale

LAs and schools have a responsibility for the health and safety of pupils in their care. The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 makes employers responsible for the health and safety of employees and anyone else on the premises. In the case of pupils with special medical needs, the responsibility of the employer is to make sure that safety measures cover the needs of all pupils at the school. This may mean making special arrangements for particular pupils who may be more at risk than their classmates. Individual procedures may be required. The employer is responsible for making sure that relevant staff know about and are, if necessary, trained to provide any additional support these pupils may need.

The Children and Families Act 2014, from September 2014, places a duty on schools to make arrangements for children 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 loco parentis 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. The school takes advice and guidance from Shropshire Council Medicines in Schools section of the Health and Safety Policy which encourages self-administration of medication when possible.

Aims

The school aims to:

- assist parents in providing medical care for their children;
- educate staff and children in respect of special medical needs;
- adopt and implement the School's Medicines Policy;
- arrange training for volunteer staff to support individual pupils;
- liaise as necessary with medical services in support of the individual pupil;
- ensure access to full education if possible.
- monitor and keep appropriate records.

Entitlement

The school accepts that pupils with medical needs should be assisted if at all possible and that they have a right to the full education available to other pupils.

The school believes that pupils with medical needs should be enabled to have full attendance and receive necessary proper care and support.

The school accepts all employees have rights in relation to supporting pupils with medical needs as follows:

- choose whether or not they are prepared to be involved;
- receive appropriate training;
- work to clear guidelines;
- have concerns about legal liability;
- bring to the attention of management any concern or matter relating to supporting pupils with medical needs.

Expectations

It is expected that:

- Parents will be encouraged to co-operate in training children to self-administer if this is practicable and that members of staff will only be asked to be involved if there is no alternative.
- Where parents have asked the school to administer the medication for their child they must ask the pharmacist to supply any such medication to be dispensed in a separate container, containing only the quantity required for school use. The prescription and dosage regime should be typed or printed clearly on the outside. The school will only administer medicines in which the dosage is required 4 times a day. The name of the pharmacist should be clearly visible. Any medications not presented properly will not be accepted by school staff. Pupils should not bring their own medicine – this should be brought into school by the parent.
- That employees will consider carefully their response to requests to assist with the giving of medication or supervision of self-medication and that they will consider each request separately.

- The school will liaise with the School Health Service for advice about a pupil's special medical needs, and will seek support from the relevant practitioners where necessary and in the interests of the pupil.
- Any medications brought into school by staff eg headache tablets, inhalers for personal use should be stored in an appropriate place and kept out of the reach of the pupils. Any staff medicine is the responsibility of the individual concerned and not the school.

Equal opportunities

Our school is clear about the need to actively support 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 consider what reasonable adjustments need to be made to enable these pupils can participate fully and safely on school trips, visits and sporting activities.

Risk assessments will be carried out so that planning arrangements take account of any steps needed to ensure that pupils with medical conditions are included.

Identifying Medical Conditions

As part of our responsibilities for managing pupil's health we will collect medical data when a child first starts school. The School Registration Form includes a medical details section and it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to complete this with any current medical conditions the child has.

Parents/guardians must also inform the school about a new diagnosis for a child. This information should be passed to the School Business Manager. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure this information is passed onto the School in writing.

Emergency procedures

Staff will follow the school's normal emergency procedures (for example, calling 999). All pupils' Healthcare Plans will clearly set out what constitutes an emergency and will explain what to do. Please follow the emergency guidance set out in this if you need to ring an ambulance for a school emergency.

The 'Childs Medical Information' sheet from the Healthcare plan is a summary of the child's condition and contacts, to be used in the event of an emergency and handed to the Emergency Services and Medical professionals.

If a pupil needs to be taken to hospital, staff will stay.

Training

Staff who are responsible for supporting pupils with medical needs will receive suitable and sufficient training to do so.