



Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy

Alverton School

Approved by: Alverton Governing Body

Last reviewed on: July 2023

Next review due by: July 2025

Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Pupils, staff and parents understand how our school will support pupils with medical conditions.
- Pupils with medical conditions are properly supported to allow them to access the same education as other pupils, including school trips and sporting activities.

The governing board will implement this policy by:

- Making sure sufficient staff are suitably trained.
- Making staff aware of pupils' conditions, where appropriate.
- Making sure there are cover arrangements to ensure someone is always available to support pupils with medical conditions.
- Providing supply teachers with appropriate information about the policy and relevant pupils.
- Developing and monitoring individual healthcare plans (IHPs).

The named person with responsibility for implementing this policy is the Headteacher.

Legislation and statutory responsibilities

This policy meets the requirements under Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014, which places a duty on governing boards to make arrangements for supporting pupils at their school with medical conditions.

It is also based on the Department for Education's statutory guidance on 'Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school'. This policy also complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

Key roles and responsibilities

The Local Authority (LA) and Truro and Penwith Academy Trust are responsible for:

- Promoting co-operation between relevant partners regarding supporting pupils with medical conditions.
- Providing support, advice /guidance and training to schools and their staff to ensure Individual Healthcare Plans (IHP) are effectively delivered.
- Working with schools to ensure pupils attend full-time or make alternative arrangements for the education of pupils who need to be out of school for fifteen days or more due to a health need and who otherwise would not receive a suitable education.

Please also refer to Truro and Penwith Academy Trust's Health and Safety Policy which has a section on the Administration of Medication.

The Governing Body of Alverton School is responsible for:

- Ensuring arrangements are in place to support pupils with medical conditions.
- Ensuring the policy is developed collaboratively across services, clearly identifies roles and responsibilities and is implemented effectively.
- Ensuring that the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy does not discriminate on any grounds including, but not limited to protected characteristics: ethnicity/national/ origin, religion or belief, sex, gender reassignment, pregnancy & maternity, disability or sexual orientation.

- Ensuring the policy covers arrangements for pupils who are competent to manage their own health needs.
- Ensuring that all pupils with medical conditions are able to play a full and active role in all aspects of school life, participate in school visits / trips/ sporting activities, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential.
- Ensuring that relevant training is delivered to a sufficient number of staff who will have responsibility to support children with medical conditions and that they are signed off as competent to do so. Ensuring staff have access to information, resources and materials.
- Ensuring written records are kept of, any and all, medicines administered to pupils.
- Ensuring the policy sets out procedures in place for emergency situations.
- Ensuring the level of insurance in place reflects the level of risk.
- Handling complaints regarding this policy as outlined in the school's complaints policy.

The Headteacher and/or SENDCO is responsible for:

- Ensuring the policy is developed effectively with partner agencies and then making staff aware of this policy.
- The day-to-day implementation and management of the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy and Procedures of Alverton School.
- Liaising with healthcare professionals regarding the training required for staff.
- Identifying staff who need to be aware of a child's medical condition.
- Ensuring the development of Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs).
- Ensuring a sufficient number of trained members of staff are available.
- If necessary, facilitating the recruitment of staff for the purpose of delivering the promises made in this policy. Ensuring more than one staff member is identified, to cover holidays / absences and emergencies.
- Ensuring the correct level of insurance is in place for teachers who support pupils in line with this policy.
- Continuous two-way liaison with school nurses and school in the case of any child who has or develops an identified medical condition.
- Ensuring confidentiality and data protection.
- Assigning appropriate accommodation for medical treatment/ care

Staff members are responsible for:

- Taking appropriate steps to support children with medical conditions and familiarising themselves with procedures which detail how to respond when they become aware that a pupil with a medical condition needs help. *A first-aid certificate is not sufficient.*
- Knowing where controlled drugs are stored and where the key is held.
- Taking account of the needs of pupils with medical conditions in lessons.
- Undertaking training to achieve the necessary competency for supporting pupils with medical conditions, with particular specialist training if they have agreed to undertake a medication responsibility.
- Allowing inhalers, adrenalin pens and blood glucose testers to be held in an accessible location, following DfE guidance.

School nurses are responsible for:

- Collaborating on developing an IHP in anticipation of a child with a medical condition starting school.

- Notifying the school when a child has been identified as requiring support in school due to a medical condition at any time in their school career.
- Supporting staff to implement an IHP and then participate in regular reviews of the IHP. Giving advice and liaison on training needs.
- Liaising locally with lead clinicians on appropriate support. Assisting the Headteacher in identifying training needs and providers.

Parents and carers are responsible for:

- Keeping the school informed about any new medical condition or changes to their child/children's health.
- Participating in the development and regular reviews of their child's IHP.
- Completing a parental consent form to administer medicine or treatment before bringing medication into school.
- Providing the school with the medication their child requires and keeping it up to date including collecting leftover medicine.
- Carrying out actions assigned to them in the IHP with particular emphasis on, they or a nominated adult, being contactable at all times.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Providing information on how their medical condition affects them.
- Contributing to their IHP.
- Complying with the IHP and self-managing their medication or health needs including carrying medicines or devices, if judged competent to do so by a healthcare professional and agreed by parents.

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 to 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. In doing so, pupils, their parents and any relevant healthcare professionals will be consulted.

Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

- Where necessary (Headteachers will make the final decision) an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) will be developed in collaboration with the pupil, parents/carers, Headteacher, Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) and medical professionals.
- IHPs will be easily accessible to all relevant staff, including supply/agency staff, whilst preserving confidentiality. If consent is sought from parents a photo and instructions may be displayed. ***In the case of conditions with potential life-threatening implications the information should be available clearly and accessible to everyone.***
- IHPs will be reviewed at least annually or when a child's medical circumstances change, whichever is sooner.
- Where a pupil has an Education, Health and Care plan or special needs statement, the IHP will be linked to it or become part of it.

- Where a child is returning from a period of hospital education or alternative provision or home tuition, collaboration between the LA /AP provider and school is needed to ensure that the IHP identifies the support the child needs to reintegrate.

Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School

Alverton School follows the guidance in the Cornwall Council document “Supporting Children who are Unable to Attend School because of Medical / Health Needs” (September 2021).

Emergencies

- Medical emergencies will be dealt with under the school’s emergency procedures which will be communicated to all relevant staff so they are aware of signs and symptoms.
- Pupils will be informed in general terms of what to do in an emergency such as telling a teacher.
- If a pupil needs to be taken to hospital, a member of staff will remain with the child until their parents arrive.

Training of staff

- The clinical lead for each training area/session will be named on each IHP.
- No staff member may administer prescription medicines or undertake any healthcare procedures without undergoing training specific to the condition.
- School will keep a record of medical conditions supported, training undertaken and a list of teachers qualified to undertake responsibilities under this policy.

Medical conditions register/list

- School admissions forms will request information on pre-existing medical conditions. Parents must have easy pathway to inform school at any point in the school year if a condition develops or is diagnosed. Consideration could be given to seeking consent from GPs to have input into the IHP and also to share information for recording attendance.
- A medical conditions list or register should be kept, updated and reviewed regularly by the nominated member of staff. Each class teacher should have an overview of the list for the pupils in their care, within easy access.
- Supply staff and support staff should similarly have access on a need to know basis. Parents should be assured data sharing principles are adhered to.
- For pupils on the medical conditions list Key Stage transition points meetings should take place in advance of transferring to enable parents, school and health professionals to prepare IHP and train staff if appropriate.

Insurance

- Teachers who undertake responsibilities within this policy will be assured by the Headteacher that are covered by the Trust’s insurance.
- Full written insurance policy documents are available to be viewed by members of staff who are providing support to pupils with medical conditions. Those who wish to see the documents should contact the Headteacher.

Complaints

All complaints should be raised with the school in the first instance. The details of how to make a formal complaint can be found in the School Complaints Policy.

Administration of Medication Procedures

Managing Medicines

School

- Where possible, unless advised it would be detrimental to health, medicines should be prescribed in frequencies that allow the pupil to take them outside of school hours.
- If this is not possible, prior to staff members administering any medication, the parents/carers of the child must complete and sign a parental consent to administration of medicine form.
- No child will be given any prescription or non-prescription medicines without written parental consent except in exceptional circumstances.
- No child will be given medication containing aspirin without a doctor's prescription.
- Medicines MUST be in date, labelled, and provided in the original container (except in the case of insulin which may come in a pen or pump) with dosage instructions.
- Medicines which do not meet these criteria will not be administered.
- A maximum of **four** weeks' supply of the medication may be provided to the school at one time.
- A child who has been prescribed a controlled drug may legally have it in their possession if they are competent to do so, but passing it to another child for use is an offence. Monitoring arrangements may be necessary.
- Medications will be stored in the medicine cabinet or fridge.
- Any medications left over at the end of the course will be returned to the child's parents.
- Written records will be kept of any medication administered to children.
- Pupils will never be prevented from accessing their medication.
- Emergency salbutamol inhaler kits may be kept voluntarily by school.
- Posters about medical conditions (diabetes, asthma, epilepsy etc.) are recommended to be visible in the staff room.
- Alverton School cannot be held responsible for side effects that occur when medication is taken correctly.
- Staff will not force a pupil, if the pupil refuses to comply with their health procedure, and the resulting actions will be clearly written into the IHP which will include informing parents.

Nursery

Staff working with children are not legally obliged to administer medication.

- Before administering medication to any child we will require acknowledgement on the Family app.
- This agreement (usually a Medication Form via Family) should include:
 - the child's name
 - the name of the medication
 - the required dose and agreed time of administration
 - Clearly stated whether the medication is on-going or to be taken up until a particular date
 - Possible side effects, and/or the information leaflet that is normally supplied by the manufacturer made available
- Medication is only accepted if it has been prescribed and is in its original labelled container.

- Where the medication is an adrenaline pen or inhaler (where there may be only occasional emergency use), it will have the expiry date of the medication recorded on the appropriate form.
- Parents must notify the nursery IMMEDIATELY if the child's circumstances change, e.g. a dose has been given at home, or a change in strength/dose needs to be given.
- Any change in the details listed above must be recorded on FAMILY with counter signature from the parent / carer.
- At the time of administering the medicine, a senior member of staff will offer it in a manner acceptable to the child at the prescribed time and in the prescribed form.
- If the child refuses to take the appropriate medication a note will be made on the form. Where medication is "essential" or may have side effects, discussion with the parent will take place to establish the appropriate response. This will be documented on the form.

Storage (Nursery)

All medication will:

- Be stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions on the container (e.g. cool dark place, refrigerated)
- Be stored in a closed box
- Be kept out of the reach of children
- Be in their original containers
- Have labels which are legible and in English
- Be clearly marked with child's name and date of birth
- Emergency medication, such as inhalers and Adrenaline (EpiPens), will be within easy reach of staff in case of an immediate need, but will remain out of children's reach
- Any 'stored' medication such as Nursery stock of Paracetamol (Calpol) or a child's inhaler, will be regularly checked to ensure the product is still within its expiry and therefore suitable for use.

Emergency Medication (Nursery)

At the new registration of a child to the setting, parents will be asked if they are happy to give consent to 'emergency' treatment being given. This would be only deemed necessary for specific circumstances. Parents/ carers will be asked to complete a form to give consent. This form will include:

- The circumstances in which 'emergency' medication will be given e.g. high temperature (above 37.8°C)
- The specific medication (drug name) e.g. Paracetamol
- Dose to be administered will follow the guidance on the original container e.g. following age / dosage instructions
- Statement that medication will only be given if the nursery is unable to contact the parent

An 'emergency' nursery stock of medication may be kept on site.

- Stock medication will be kept in accordance with manufacturer's instructions on the container (e.g. cool dark place, out of the reach of children).
- Stock will be checked at regular intervals by the designated trained first aider to ensure there is ample supply and is still within its expiry date.
- If a child experiences symptoms of illness, attempts will be made to contact the child's parents before administering 'emergency' medication.

- Where parents cannot be contacted the Nursery Lead or EYFS Lead will take the decision as to whether the child is suitable to receive the 'emergency' medication based on the symptoms and medical history of the child given at registration.
- Administering 'emergency' non-prescription medication will be a last resort and the nursery staff will use other methods first to try and alleviate the symptoms. The child will be closely monitored until the parents collect the child.

Medicines will only be administered with parental consent and will not be administered if this consent is not held.