

Mersey Park Primary School



Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy

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1. 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 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
- Monitoring individual healthcare plans (HCPs)

The named person with responsibility for implementing this policy is Mrs V Inman/Mrs J Robertson.

2. 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 (DfE)'s statutory guidance on [supporting pupils with medical conditions at school](#).

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 The governing board

The governing board has ultimate responsibility to make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions. The governing board will ensure that sufficient staff have received suitable training and are competent before they are responsible for supporting children with medical conditions.

3.2 The headteacher

The headteacher will:

- › Ensure that there is a sufficient number of trained staff available to implement this policy and deliver against all individual healthcare plans (HCPs), including in contingency and emergency situations
- › Make sure that school staff are appropriately insured and aware that they are insured to support pupils in this way
- › Ensure that systems are in place for obtaining information about a child's medical needs and that this information is kept up to date
- › Monitor the HCPs created and their implementation in class

3.3 SENDCo

The SENDCo's will:

- › Make sure all staff are aware of this policy and understand their role in its implementation
- › Ensure that all staff who need to know are aware of a child's condition
- › Take overall responsibility for the development of HCPs
- › Contact the school nursing service in the case of any pupil 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

3.4 Staff

Supporting pupils with medical conditions during school hours is not the sole responsibility of one person. Any member of staff may be asked to provide support to pupils with medical conditions, although they will not be required to do so. This includes the administration of medicines.

Those staff who take on the responsibility to support pupils with medical conditions will receive sufficient and suitable training, and will achieve the necessary level of competency before doing so.

Teachers will take into account the needs of pupils with medical conditions that they teach. All staff will know what to do and respond accordingly when they become aware that a pupil with a medical condition needs help.

3.5 Parents

Parents will:

- › Provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs
- › Be involved in the development and review of their child's HCP and may be involved in its drafting on an annual basis
- › Carry out any action they have agreed to as part of the implementation of the HCP, e.g. provide medicines and equipment, and ensure they or another nominated adult are contactable at all times

3.6 Pupils

Pupils with medical conditions will often be best placed to provide information about how their condition affects them. Pupils should be fully involved in discussions about their medical support needs and contribute as much as possible to the development of their HCPs. They are also expected to comply with their IHPs.

3.7 School nurses and other healthcare professionals

Our school nursing service will notify the school when a pupil has been identified as having a medical condition that will require support in school. This will be before the pupil starts school, wherever possible. They may also support staff to implement a child's HCP.

Healthcare professionals, such as GPs and paediatricians, will liaise with the school's nurses and notify them of any pupils identified as having a medical condition. They may also provide advice on developing HCPs.

4. 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.

5. Being notified that a child has a medical condition

When the school is notified that a pupil has a medical condition, the process outlined in Appendix 1 will be followed to decide whether the pupil requires an HCP. This will be completed on an individual basis.

The school will make every effort to ensure that arrangements are put into place within 2 weeks, or by the beginning of the relevant term for pupils who are new to our school.

6. Individual healthcare plans (HCPs)

The headteacher has overall responsibility for the development of HCPs for pupils with medical conditions. This has been delegated on a day to day basis to Mrs J Robertson and Mrs V Inman.

Plans will be reviewed at least annually, or earlier if there is evidence that the pupil's needs have changed.

Plans will be developed with the pupil's best interests in mind and will set out:

- What needs to be done
- When
- By whom

Not all pupils with a medical condition will require an HCP. It will be agreed with a healthcare professional and the parents when an HCP would be inappropriate or disproportionate. This will be based on evidence. If there is no consensus, the headteacher will make the final decision.

Plans will be drawn up in partnership with the school, parents and a relevant healthcare professional, such as the school nurse, specialist or paediatrician, who can best advise on the pupil's specific needs. The pupil will be involved wherever appropriate.

HCPs will be linked to, or become part of, any education, health and care (EHC) plan. If a pupil has SEN but does not have an EHC plan, the SEN will be mentioned in the HCP.

The level of detail in the plan will depend on the complexity of the child's condition and how much support is needed. The governing board, the headteacher and SENDCo's, will consider the following when deciding what information to record on HCPs:

- 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, e.g. crowded corridors, travel time between lessons
- Specific support for the pupil's educational, social and emotional needs. For example, how absences will be managed, requirements for extra time to complete exams, use of rest periods or additional support in catching up with lessons, counselling sessions
- The level of support needed, including in emergencies. If a pupil is self-managing their medication, this will 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 pupil'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 pupil's condition and the support required
- Arrangements for written permission from parents and the headteacher 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 pupil can participate, e.g. risk assessments
- Where confidentiality issues are raised by the parent/pupil, the designated individuals to be entrusted with information about the pupil's condition
- What to do in an emergency, including who to contact, and contingency arrangements

7. Managing medicines

Prescription (and in very particular cases non-prescription) medicines will only be administered at school:

- When it would be detrimental to the pupil's health or school attendance not to do so **and**
- Where we have parents' written consent

Pupils will not be given medicine containing aspirin unless prescribed by a doctor.

Anyone giving a pupil any medication (for example, for pain relief) will first check maximum dosages and when the previous dosage was taken. The dose to be given will always match the form completed by parents. Parents will always be informed.

The school 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, dosage and storage.

The school will accept insulin that is inside an insulin pen or pump rather than its original container, but it must be in date.

All medicines will be stored safely. Pupils will be informed about where their medicines are at all times and be able to access them immediately. Medicines and devices such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing meters and adrenaline pens will always be readily available to pupils and not locked away.

Medicines will be returned to parents to arrange for safe disposal when no longer required.

7.1 Controlled drugs

[Controlled drugs](#) are prescription medicines that are controlled under the [Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001](#) and subsequent amendments, such as morphine or methadone.

All controlled drugs are kept in a secure cupboard in a staff office and only named staff have access after they have been trained. Currently this is Mrs V Teasdale and Mrs C Hardy.

Controlled drugs will be easily accessible in an emergency and a record of any doses used and the amount held will be kept. There will be an audit of the medicines administered once a half term. If there are any inaccuracies in recording, this will be looked into and a file is kept when edits need to be made to ensure records are accurate and editing explained. This can be found in the office.

7.2 Pupils managing their own needs

Pupils who are competent will be encouraged to take responsibility for managing their own medicines and procedures. This will be discussed with parents and it will be reflected in their HCPs. This will only happen in Upper KS2 where it may be necessary for a child to learn to do this before transitioning to Secondary school.

Pupils will be allowed to carry their own medicines and relevant devices wherever possible. Staff will not force a pupil to take a medicine or carry out a necessary procedure if they refuse, but will follow the procedure agreed in the HCP and inform parents so that an alternative option can be considered, if necessary.

7.3 Unacceptable practice

School staff should use their discretion and judge each case individually with reference to the pupil's HCP, but it is generally not acceptable to:

- Prevent pupils from easily accessing their inhalers and medication, and administering their medication when and where necessary
- Assume that every pupil with the same condition requires the same treatment
- Ignore the views of the pupil or their parents
- Ignore medical evidence or opinion (although this may be challenged)
- Send children with medical conditions home frequently for reasons associated with their medical condition or prevent them from staying for normal school activities, including lunch, unless this is specified in their HCPs
- If the pupil becomes ill, send them to the school office or medical room unaccompanied or with someone unsuitable
- Penalise pupils for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical condition, e.g. 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 pupil, 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 pupils from participating, or create unnecessary barriers to pupils participating in any aspect of school life, including school trips, e.g. by requiring parents to accompany their child
- Administer, or ask pupils to administer, medicine in school toilets

Managing allergies

Children with allergies are at risk of anaphylaxis which can be a life threatening reaction that requires immediate emergency response.

7.4 Government legislation

Schools have a legal duty to support pupils with medical conditions, including allergy. Schools must adhere to legislation and statutory guidance on caring for pupils with medical conditions, including the administration of allergy medication.

7.5 Emergency management of anaphylaxis

Symptoms of anaphylaxis include one or more of the below:

Airways

- Swollen tongue
- Difficulty swallowing/speaking
- Throat tightness
- Change in voice (hoarse or croaky sounds)

Breathing

- Difficult or noisy breathing
- Chest tightness
- Persistent cough
- Wheeze (whistling noise due to a narrowed airway)

Circulation

- Feeling dizzy or faint
- Collapse
- Babies and young children may suddenly become floppy and pale
- Loss of consciousness (unresponsive)

7.6 Actions to be taken

Give adrenaline

- Call an ambulance (999) and tell the operator it is anaphylaxis
- Position is important -lie the person flat (or sit them up if having breathing problems)
- Avoid standing or moving someone having anaphylaxis
- Stay with the person until medical help arrives
- If symptoms do not improve within five minutes of a first dose of adrenaline, give a second dose using another AAI

- A person who has a severe allergic reaction and/ or is given adrenaline should always be taken to hospital for further observation and treatment
- Sometimes anaphylaxis symptoms can re-occur after the first episode has been treated and appeared to have settled. This is called biphasic anaphylaxis.

7.7 Spare pens in school

Since 2017, schools have been legally able to directly purchase AAI from a pharmaceutical supplier, such as a local pharmacy, without a prescription. There are two in school – one of each strength. They are stored in the main office with information on who would use each and the signed documentation from parents.

7.8 Staff Allergy Training

Mrs J Robertson and Mrs V Inman are responsible for coordinating allergy management including the development and upkeep of the school's allergy policy. However, an allergic reaction could occur at any time at school, so all staff are trained on what to do in the event of an allergic reaction, as a student may be under their supervision when this happens. Allergy training is refreshed annually, and new and temporary staff will be trained as soon as they join the school to ensure confidence and competence.

7.9 Catering at our school

As part of our school's duty to support children with medical conditions, we provide safe food options to meet dietary needs including food allergy. Catering staff can identify pupils with allergy and provide them with safe meals. We are a nut free school.

8. Emergency procedures

Staff will follow the school's normal emergency procedures (for example, calling 999). All pupils' HCPs will clearly set out what constitutes an emergency and will explain what to do.

If a pupil needs to be taken to hospital, staff will stay with the pupil until the parent arrives, or accompany the pupil to hospital by ambulance.

9. Training

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

The training will be identified during the development or review of HCPs. Staff who provide support to pupils with medical conditions will be included in meetings where this is discussed.

The relevant healthcare professionals will lead on identifying the type and level of training required and will agree this with the headteacher, deputy headteacher and SENDCo's. Training will be kept up to date.

Training will:

- Be sufficient to ensure that staff are competent and have confidence in their ability to support the pupils
- Fulfil the requirements in the HCPs
- Help staff to have an understanding of the specific medical conditions they are being asked to deal with, their implications and preventative measures

Healthcare professionals will provide confirmation of the proficiency of staff in a medical procedure, or in providing medication.

All staff will receive training so that they are aware of this policy and understand their role in implementing it, for example, with preventative and emergency measures so they can recognise and act quickly when a problem occurs. This will be provided for new staff during their induction.

In the event of a child in Nursery or Reception having an accident in school, staff should always seek the help and support of a Paediatric Trained First Aider who will then treat the child appropriately.

10. Record keeping

The governing board will ensure that records are kept of all medicine administered to pupils for as long as these pupils are at the school, this will be completed electronically on medical tracker so parents are also informed immediately.

A pupil's parent/carer will be contacted automatically when an incident is added to medical tracker; whenever there is a medical emergency, if a pupil receives first aid treatment or has an accident. Where appropriate, the school will ask the parent/carer to attend to support the pupil. Parents will always be notified if a child has a head injury, however minor it may appear at the time. If in an accident or medical emergency, bodily fluids need clearing up the site staff will be called to deal with the matter. If no site staff are available a teaching assistant will be called to clear the mess. Medical tracker must be completed by the member of staff who is present at the scene of an accident or medical emergency.

If the injured person is a member of staff, they are responsible themselves for completing medical tracker.

HCPs are kept in the SENDCo office which all staff are aware of and an electronic copy on the Admin drive in the child's SEND folder.

A medication audit is undertaken once a term to check the stock of each medication matches the amount of tablets on medical tracker. If there are discrepancies the fault will be found (usually recording error) and this will be corrected. When an edit has been made the incorrect recording will be printed, annotated for the mistake and then a new record will be made on Medical Tracker to overwrite it. In this case the annotated document will be witnessed by a second member of staff and the printed, annotated version added to a folder to explain the edits made on Medical Tracker.

11. Off site treatment

If an accident or medical emergency occurs off the school premises the member of staff present should complete medical tracker as soon as possible after returning to School or on the trip if possible/necessary.

The teacher in charge of any outing off the school premises has the responsibility for being acquainted with any specific medical needs or conditions of the pupils in his/her charge and have appropriate training in how to care for the child's subsequent medical needs.

Risk assessments must be carried out for all pupils especially those with known medical conditions on each trip. Prior to educational trips and visits, parents will be asked to complete a Consent Form and provision will be made to meet all risks and cover medical needs.

In the event that an accident occurs out of school and the family cannot be contacted, at least one member of staff should accompany the person to hospital. In no circumstances should any students be left unattended as a result of a member of staff accompanying the injured person to hospital; in this instance, an ambulance should be called.

Staff planning educational visits or journeys, should consider the level of First Aid cover that will be required and the specific support needed by pupils with known medical conditions.

A designated teacher will be given overall responsibility for the care of pupils with known and identified medical conditions

12. Liability and indemnity

The governing board will ensure that the appropriate level of insurance is in place and appropriately reflects the school's level of risk.

13. Complaints

Parents with a complaint about the school's actions in regard to their child's medical condition should discuss these directly with the headteacher in the first instance. If the headteacher cannot resolve the matter, they will direct parents to the school's complaints procedure.

14. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the governing board every year.

15. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Complaints
- Equality information and objectives
- First aid
- Health and safety
- Intimate Care Policy
- Medicines Policy
- Safeguarding
- Special educational needs information report and policy

Appendix 1: Being notified a child has a medical condition

