



Park Gate Primary School Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions

Introduction

In line with the duty, which came into force on 1st September 2014, to support pupils at school with medical conditions we are committed to ensuring that all children with medical conditions, in terms of both physical and mental health, are properly supported at Park Gate Primary School so that they can play a full and active role in school life, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential.

No child with a medical condition will be denied admission or prevented from taking up a place in our school because arrangements for their medical condition have not been made.

We will ensure that pupils' health is not put at unnecessary risk from, for example, infectious diseases therefore we will not accept a child into school at times where it would be detrimental to the health of that child or others to do so.

Where children have a disability, the requirement of the Equality Act 2010 will apply. Where children have an identified special need, the SEN Code of Practice will also apply.

Key Roles & Responsibilities

The named person, who has overall responsibility for policy implementation is Lindsay McCarthy, Headteacher.

The Governing Body will;

- 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.
- Ensure that a pupil with medical conditions is supported to enable the fullest participation possible in all aspects of school life.
- Ensure that sufficient staff have received suitable training and are competent before they take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions.
- 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 will ensure that;

- The school's policy is developed and effectively implemented with partners. This includes ensuring that all staff are aware of the policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions and understand their role in its implementation.
- All staff who need to know are aware of a child's condition.
- Sufficiently trained numbers of staff are available to implement the policy and deliver against all individual healthcare plans, including in contingency and emergency situations. This may involve recruiting a member of staff for this purpose.
- Individual healthcare plans are developed and monitored.
- Supply teachers are briefed.
- Risk assessments for school visits and other school activities outside the normal timetable are completed.

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

School nurses - every school has access to school nursing services. They are responsible for notifying the school when a child has been identified as having a medical condition that will require support in school. Wherever possible, they should do this before the child starts at the school. They would not usually have an extensive role in ensuring that schools are taking appropriate steps to support children with medical conditions, but may support staff on implementing a child's individual healthcare plan and provide advice and liaison, for example on training. School nurses can liaise with lead clinicians locally on appropriate support for the child and associated staff training needs – for example there are good models of local specialist nursing teams offering training to local school staff, hosted by a local school. Community nursing teams will also be a valuable potential resource for a school seeking advice and support in relation to children with a medical condition.

Arrangements at Park Gate Primary School Identifying children with health conditions

We will aim to identify children with medical needs on entry to the school by working in partnership with parents/carers and following the process outlined in the document 'Process for identifying children with a health condition' produced by the Southern Health School Nursing Team in conjunction with the Children's Services Health and Safety Team. We will use the 'Health Questionnaire for Schools' to obtain the information required for each child's medical needs to ensure that we have appropriate arrangements in place prior to the child commencing at the school to support them accordingly.

We will liaise with educational, health and other professionals during any transition periods, for example when a child starts at the school or transfers to another school. Reference will be made to Education Health Care plans through the Special Education Needs (SEN) team at the Local Authority.

Where a formal diagnosis is awaited or is unclear, we will plan to implement arrangements to support the child, based on the current evidence available for their condition. We will ensure that every effort is made to involve some formal medical evidence and consultation with the parents.

Individual health care plans

We recognise that Individual Healthcare Plans are recommended in particular where conditions fluctuate or where there is a high risk that emergency intervention will be needed, and are likely to be helpful in the majority of other cases, especially where medical conditions are long term and complex. However, not all children will require one. The school, healthcare professionals and parents will agree based on evidence when a healthcare plan would be inappropriate or disproportionate.

Where children require an individual healthcare plan it will be the responsibility of the Inclusion Manager to work with parents and relevant healthcare professionals to write the plan.

A healthcare plan (and its review) may be initiated in consultation with the parent/carer, by a member of school staff or by a healthcare professional involved in providing care to the child. The Inclusion Manager will work in partnership with the parents/carer, and a relevant healthcare professional eg. school, specialist or children's community nurse, who can best advise on the particular needs of the child to draw up and/or review the plan. Where a child has a special educational need identified in an Educational Health Care (EHC) plan, the individual healthcare plan will be linked to or become part of that statement or EHC plan.

We may also refer to the flowchart contained within the document 'Process for identifying children with a health condition' for identifying and agreeing the support a child needs and then developing the individual healthcare plan.

We will use the individual healthcare plan template produced by the DfE to record the plan. If a child is returning following a period of hospital education or alternative provision (including home tuition), that we will work with Hampshire County Council and education provider to ensure that the individual healthcare plan identifies the support the child will need to reintegrate effectively.

When deciding what information should be recorded on individual healthcare plans, the governing body should consider the following:

- 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 eg 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, (some children will be able to take responsibility for their own health needs), including in emergencies. If a child is self-managing their medication, this should 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 child'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 child'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 child can participate, eg risk assessments;
- where confidentiality issues are raised by the parent/child, the designated individuals to be entrusted with information about the child's condition; and
- what to do in an emergency, including whom to contact, and contingency arrangements. Some children may have an emergency healthcare plan prepared by their lead clinician that could be used to inform development of their individual healthcare plan.

Staff training

Staff must not administer prescription medicines or undertake any health care procedures without the appropriate training (updated to reflect any individual healthcare plans).

All new staff will be made aware of this policy as part of their induction programme.

All nominated staff will be provided with awareness training on the school's policy for supporting children with medical conditions which will include what their role is in implementing the policy. This training will be carried out every year and following any review

of the policy. During COVID-19 arrangements the Finance Officer and Admin Officer are the nominated staff with responsibility for ensuring medicine is administered to the children who require this using the Head and Deputy to deliver and administer medication. Specific arrangements are in place for pupils requiring emergency medical procedures and are recorded on Individual Health Care Plans, overseen by the Inclusion Manager.

Records of this training will be stored in the school office.

Where required we will work with the relevant healthcare professionals to identify and agree the type and level of training required and identify where the training can be obtained from. This will include ensuring that the training is sufficient to ensure staff members are competent and confident in their ability to support children with medical conditions. The training will include preventative and emergency measures so that staff can recognise and act quickly when a problem occurs and therefore allow them to fulfil the requirements set out in the individual healthcare plan.

Any training undertaken will form part of the overall training plan for the school and refresher awareness training will be scheduled at appropriate intervals agreed with the relevant healthcare professional delivering the training.

The child's role

Where possible and in discussion with parents, children that are competent will be encouraged to take responsibility for managing their own medicines and procedures. This will be recorded in their individual healthcare plan. The healthcare plan will reference what will happen should a child who self-administers refuses to take their medication (this will normally be informing the parent/carer at the earliest opportunity).

Where possible we will endeavour to ensure that children can carry their own medicines and relevant devices or have easy access to allow for quick self medication. We will agree with relevant healthcare professionals/parent the appropriate level of supervision required and document this in their healthcare plan.

Managing medicines on School Premises

The administration of medicines is the overall responsibility of the parents/carers. Where clinically possible we will encourage parents to ask for medicines to be prescribed in dose frequencies which enable them to be taken outside of school hours. However, the Headteacher is responsible for ensuring children are supported with their medical needs whilst on site, therefore this may include managing medicines where it would be detrimental to a child's health or school attendance not to do so.

We will not give prescription or non-prescription medicines to a child under 16 without their parent's/carers written consent (a 'parental agreement to administer medicines' form will be used to record this), except in exceptional circumstances where the medicine has been prescribed to the child without the knowledge of the parents. In such cases, we will make every effort to encourage the child or young person to involve their parents while respecting their right to confidentiality.

A documented tracking system to record all medicines received in and out of the premises is in place. The Children's Services Medication Tracking Form is used for this purpose. The name of the child, dose, expiry and shelf life dates will be checked before medicines are administered.

On occasions where a child refuses to take their medication the parents will be informed at the earliest available opportunity.

We 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, their dosage and storage. Insulin is the exception, which must still be in date but will generally be available to schools inside an insulin pen or a pump, rather than its original container.

Children who are able to use their own inhalers themselves are encouraged to carry it with them. If the child is too young or immature to take personal responsibility for their inhaler, staff should make sure that it is stored in a safe but readily accessible place, and clearly marked with the child's name.

Controlled drugs will be securely stored in a non-portable container which only named staff will have access to. We will ensure that the drugs are easily accessible in an emergency situation. A record will be kept of any doses used and the amount of the controlled drug held in school. There may be instances where it is deemed appropriate for a child to administer their own controlled medication. This would normally be at the advice of a medical practitioner. Where an individual child is competent to do so and following a risk assessment, we may allow them to have prescribed controlled drugs on them with monitoring arrangements in place.

We will only administer non-prescribed medicines on request from the parent if they are in clearly identifiable packaging and only on a short term basis having sought agreement from the Head Teacher. Where the school have concerns they will seek further guidance from their link School Nurse. Maximum dosages and previous administration times will be checked. A record will be kept of any doses used.

We will never administer Aspirin or medicine containing Ibuprofen to any child under 16 years old unless prescribed by a doctor. Medication e.g. for pain relief, should never be administered without first checking maximum dosages and when the previous does was taken. Parents should be informed.

Any homeopathic remedies to be administered will require a letter of consent from the child's doctor and will be administered at the discretion of the Head Teacher.

Emergency medicines will be stored in a safe location but not locked away to ensure they are easily accessible in the case of an emergency.

Types of emergency medicines include:

Injections of adrenaline for acute allergic reactions (during COVID-19 arrangements these are stored securely in the classroom)

Inhalers for asthmatics

Injections of Glucagon for diabetic hypoglycaemia

Other emergency medication ie. Rectal diazepam or Buccal Midazolam for major seizures will be stored in accordance with the normal prescribed medicines procedures (see storage section).

Storage

All medication, other than emergency medication, will be stored safely in a locked cabinet, where the hinges cannot be easily tampered with and cannot be easily removed from the premise.

Where medicines need to be refrigerated, they will be stored in the medical room in a clearly labeled airtight container. There must be restricted access to a refrigerator holding medicines.

Medicines such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing meters and adrenaline pens will always be readily available to children and not locked away. We will also ensure that they are readily available when outside of the school premises or on school trips.

Storage of medication whilst off site will be maintained at steady temperature and secure. There will be appropriately trained staff present to administer day to day and emergency medication and copies of individual health care plans will be taken off site to ensure appropriate procedures are followed.

Disposal of medication

It is the responsibility of the parents/carers to dispose of their child's medicines. It is our policy to return any medicines that are no longer required including those where the date has expired to the parents/carers. Parents/carers will be informed of this when the initial agreements are made to administer medicines. Medication returned to parent/ carers will be documented on the tracking medication form.

Sharps boxes will be in place for the disposal of needles. Collection and disposal of these will be arranged locally through Canon Hygiene who will remove them from site within an appropriate timeframe (when required).

Medical Accommodation

The medical room will be used for all medical administration/treatment purposes. The location/room will be made available when required. During COVID-19 arrangements the medical room will be used for children awaiting collection who are showing symptoms of COVID-19. The area outside the library will be used as a general first aid bay.

Record keeping

A record of what has been administered including how much, when and by whom, will be recorded on a 'record of prescribed medicines' form. The form will be kept on file. Any possible side effects of the medication will also be noted and reported to the parent/carers.

Emergency Procedures

Where a child has an individual healthcare plan, this will clearly define what constitutes an emergency and provide a process to follow. All relevant staff will be made aware of the emergency symptoms and procedures. We will ensure other children in the school know what to do in the event of an emergency ie. informing a teacher immediately if they are concerned about the health of another child.

Where a child is required to be taken to hospital, a member of staff will stay with the child until their parents arrives, this includes accompanying them to hospital by ambulance if necessary (taking any relevant medical information, care plans that the school holds).

Day trips/off site activities

We will ensure that teachers are aware of how a child's medical condition will impact on their participation in any off site activity or day trip, but we will ensure that there is enough flexibility for all children to participate according to their own abilities within reasonable adjustments.

We will consider what reasonable adjustments we might make to enable children with medical needs to participate fully and safely on visits. We will carry out a risk assessment so that planning arrangements take account of any steps needed to ensure that pupils with medical conditions are included. We will consult with parents and pupils and advice from the relevant healthcare professional to ensure that pupils can participate safely.

Unacceptable practice

Staff are expected to use their discretion and judge each child's individual healthcare plan on its merits, it is not generally acceptable practice to:

prevent children from easily accessing their inhalers and medication and administering their medication when and where necessary;

assume that every child with the same condition requires the same treatment;

ignore the views of the child or their parents; 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 individual healthcare plans;

if the child becomes ill, send them to the school office or medical room unaccompanied or with someone unsuitable;

penalise children for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical condition, eg. 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 child, including with toileting issues. No parent should have to give up working because the school is failing to support their child's medical needs; or

prevent children from participating, or create unnecessary barriers to children participating in any aspect of school life, including school trips eg. by requiring parents to accompany the child.

Liability and Indemnity

Staff at the school are indemnified under the County Council self insurance arrangements.

The County Council is self insured and have extended this self insurance to indemnify school staff who have agreed to administer medication or undertake a medical procedure to children. To meet the requirements of the indemnification, we will ensure that staff at the school have parents' permission for administering medicines and members of staff will have had training on the administration of the medication or medical procedure.

Complaints

Should parents or children be dissatisfied with the support provided they can discuss their concerns directly with the headteacher. If for whatever reason this does not resolve the issue, they may make a formal complaint via the school's complaints procedure.

Policy approved by WGB

20th July 2021

Review date

July 2022