



MEDICAL NEEDS POLICY

**ADOPTED AT THE MEETING OF THE LOCAL
GOVERNING BODY**

HELD ON: 21st March 2023

**CHAIR OF BOARD:
Kathryn Catterall**

**HEADTEACHER:
Ross Aldridge**



Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy

Marus Bridge Primary School wishes to ensure that pupils with medical conditions receive appropriate care and support at school. All pupils have an entitlement to a full time curriculum or as much as their medical condition allows. This policy has been developed in line with the Department for Education's statutory guidance released in April 2014 – "Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions" under a statutory duty from section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014. The statutory duty came into force on 1st September 2014. The school will have regard to the statutory guidance issued. We take account of it, carefully consider it and we make all efforts to comply. Ofsted places a clear emphasis on meeting the needs of pupils with SEN and Disabilities, including those pupils with medical conditions.

Key roles and responsibilities:

The Governing Body of Marus Bridge Primary 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/nationality/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. These staff will have access to information, resources and materials.
- Ensuring written records are kept of any 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 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 Marus Bridge Primary School.
- Directing appropriate senior leaders to liaise with healthcare professionals regarding the training required for staff.
- Identifying members of staff (or other providers in school eg Jigsaw Club) that need to be aware of a child's medical condition.
- Ensuring a sufficient number of trained members of staff are available to implement the policy and deliver IHPs in normal, contingency and emergency situations.
- 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 or other specialist 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.
- The purchase and maintenance of a defibrillator and ensuring appropriate training is given.
- Voluntarily holding 'spare' salbutamol asthma inhalers for emergency use.

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

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.
- Being contactable at all times, or communicating to school their nominated responsible adult in the event that they are non-contactable for any reason.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Providing information on how their medical condition affects them (in an age appropriate way).
- 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.

Training of staff

- Newly appointed teachers, supply or agency staff and support staff will receive training on the 'Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions' Policy as part of their induction.
 - 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 and signed off as competent.
 - School will keep a record of medical conditions supported, training undertaken and a list of teachers qualified to undertake responsibilities under this policy.
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Medical conditions register /list

- Schools admissions forms request information on pre-existing medical conditions. Parents must have a recognised 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 is kept, updated and reviewed regularly by the nominated member of staff. Each class teacher or set teacher should have an overview of the list for the pupils in their care, within easy access.
- Supply staff and support staff 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 take place in advance of transferring to enable parents, school and health professionals to prepare IHP and train staff if appropriate.

Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

- Where necessary (the Headteacher 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), Pastoral Manager and medical professionals.
- IHPs will be easily accessible to all relevant staff, including supply/agency staff, whilst preserving confidentiality. Staffrooms are inappropriate locations under Information
- 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 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 AP provider and school is needed to ensure that the IHP identifies the support the child needs to reintegrate.

Education Health Needs (EHN) referrals

1. All pupils of compulsory school age who because of illness, lasting 15 days or more, would not otherwise receive a suitable full-time education are provided for under the local authority's duty to arrange educational provision for such pupils.
2. In order to provide the most appropriate provision for the condition the EHN team accepts referrals where there is a medical diagnosis from a medical consultant.

Medicines

- 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 (as deemed by the Headteacher or Deputy).
- No child under 16 years of age will be given medication containing aspirin.
- 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.
- Medications will be stored in the School Office or the fridge in the staff room if the medication needs to be stored at low temperature.
- 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
- General posters/information about medical conditions (diabetes, asthma, epilepsy etc.) will be visible in the staff room.
- Marus Bridge Primary School cannot be held responsible for side effects that occur when medication is taken correctly.
- Staff will not force a pupil to take medication if the pupil refuses to comply with their health procedure. Parents will be informed and where necessary, the IHP will be amended.

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.

Day trips, residential visits and sporting activities

- Unambiguous arrangements will be made and be flexible enough to ensure pupils with medical conditions can participate in school trips, residential stays, sports activities and not prevent them from doing so unless a clinician states it is not possible.
- To comply with best practice, risk assessments will be undertaken in line with H&S executive guidance on school trips in order to ensure pupils with medical conditions are fully included.
- Consultation with parents, healthcare professionals etc. on trips and visits will be separate to the normal day to day IHP requirements.

Avoiding unacceptable practice

- Each case will be judged individually but in general the following is not considered acceptable at Marus Bridge Primary School:
- Preventing children from easily accessing their inhalers and medication and administering their medication when and where necessary.
- Assuming that pupils with the same condition require the same treatment.
- Ignoring the views of the pupil and/or their parents or ignoring medical evidence or opinion.
- Sending pupils home frequently or preventing them from taking part in activities at school.
- Sending the pupil to the school office alone or with an unsuitable escort if they become ill.
- Penalising pupils with medical conditions for their attendance record where the absences relate to their condition.
- Making parents feel obliged or forcing parents to attend school to administer medication or provide medical support, including toilet issues.
- Creating barriers to children participating in school life, including school trips.
- Refusing to allow pupils to eat, drink or use the toilet when they need to in order to manage their condition.

Insurance

- Teachers who undertake responsibilities within this policy will be assured by the Headteacher that are covered by the school'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 Head.

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.

Definitions

- 'Parent(s)' is a wide reference not only to a pupil's birth parents but to adoptive, step and foster parents, or other persons who have parental responsibility for, or who have care of, a pupil.
- 'Medical condition' for these purposes is either a physical or mental health medical condition as diagnosed by a healthcare professional which results in the child or young person requiring special adjustments for the school day, either ongoing or intermittently. This includes; a chronic or short-term condition, a long-term health need or disability, an illness, injury or recovery from treatment or surgery. Being 'unwell' and common childhood diseases are not covered.
- 'Medication' is defined as any prescribed or over the counter treatment.
- 'Prescription medication' is defined as any drug or device prescribed by a doctor, prescribing nurse or dentist and dispensed by a pharmacist with instructions for administration, dose and storage.
- A 'staff member' is defined as any member of staff employed at Marus Bridge Primary School.