Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs Policy

Date agreed	Feb 2026
Review date	November 2026

The purpose of the Policy for Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions is 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 the policy by:

- Making sure sufficient staff are suitably trained
- Making staff aware of pupil's condition, 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).

This policy meets the school's statutory requirements under section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 which places a duty on governing bodies of maintained schools, proprietors of academies and management committees of PRUs to make arrangements for supporting pupils at their school with medical conditions.

This Policy pays due regard to the Department for Education's statutory guidance Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions.

This Policy pays due regard to the Department for Education's December 2023 guidelines Arranging Educations for Children who Cannot Attend School Because of Health Needs (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/657995f0254aaa000d050bff/Arranging_education_for_children_who_cannot_attend_school_because_of_health_needs.pdf) which is covered fully in the school's Children With Health Needs That Cannot Attend.

1. Roles & Responsibilities

1.1 The Governing Board

The Governing Board must 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. They should ensure that sufficient staff have received suitable training and are competent before they take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions.

1.2 The Headteacher

The Headteacher will ensure that their 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, including

when mental health issues are impacting on a child's attendance, and understand their role in its implementation. The Headteacher will ensure that all staff who need to know are aware of the child's condition, ensure that sufficient 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.
The Headteacher has overall responsibility for the development of individual healthcare plans, will make sure that school staff are appropriately insured and are aware that they are insured to support pupils in this way. The Headteacher will ensure that contact is made with county council health care professionals (HCP) in cases where further guidance to support the management of the pupil's health need is required. This may include signposting to other HCP or organisations.

1.3 Parents

Parents will provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs. They may in some cases be the first to notify the school that their child has a medical condition. Parents are key partners and should be involved in the development and review of their child's individual healthcare plan and may be involved in its drafting. They should carry out any action they have agreed to as part of its implementation, e.g. provide medicines and equipment and ensure they or another nominated adult are contactable at all times. Where a child is identified as having complex health needs which may require additional staff funding, or the management of more specialised equipment please consult the local authority's Guidance for managing Children and Young People with complex medical care needs in educational settings.

1.4 Pupils

Pupils with medical conditions, including mental health conditions, will often be best placed to provide information about how their condition affects them. Where appropriate to their age and understanding, they should be fully involved in discussions about their medical support needs and contribute as much as possible to the development of, and comply with, their individual healthcare plan. Other pupils will often be sensitive to the needs of those with medical conditions.

1.5 School Staff

Any member of school staff may be asked to provide support to pupils with medical conditions, including the administration of medicines, although they cannot be required to do so. Although administering medicines is not part of the individual member of school staff's 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.

Staff must not give prescription medicines or undertake healthcare procedures without appropriate training (updated to reflect requirements within individual healthcare plans).

1.6 Local authority/Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Healthy Child Programme

The school has access to school nurses and other health practitioners via the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Healthy Child Programme (0300 029 5050 or https://www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/what-we-do/children-young-people-health-services-cambridgeshire/cambridgeshire-0-19-healthy-child-programme

Schools can contact the service for advice and support when a young person has a health condition and needs additional support and advice. Where a health condition is impacting on school attendance, schools can also refer young people for a Health assessment to help explore the impact of their health needs. Where a child is already open to more specialist/community nursing or medical services, the HCP team may recommend liaison with the specialist service in the first instance. School/community/specialist nursing services may be able to provide advice on developing individual healthcare plans and support associated staff training needs.

1.7 Other Healthcare Professionals

Other healthcare professionals, including GPs, paediatricians and mental health professionals, may communicate with schools when a child has been identified as having a medical condition that will require support at school. They may provide advice on developing individual healthcare plans. Specialist local health teams may be able to provide support in schools for children with particular conditions (e.g. asthma, diabetes, epilepsy).

2. Staff Training & Support

Any member of school staff providing support to a pupil with medical needs should have received suitable training.

Staff training should include:

- the development or review of individual healthcare plans [IHPs]
- an understanding of the specific medical conditions they are being asked to deal with, their implications and preventative measures
- whole-school awareness training so that all staff are aware of the school's policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions and their role in implementing that policy
- relevant healthcare professional should be able to advise on training that will help ensure that all medical conditions affecting pupils in the school are understood fully. This includes preventative and emergency measures so that staff can recognise and act quickly when a problem occurs

- Training for specific conditions may be available via external websites for example: www.asthma.org.uk www.anaphylaxis.org.uk www.epilepsy.org.uk
- Training for mental health champions and senior leadership training detailing implementing whole school approach policies and procedures can be found via The Link Programme at www.ormiston.org and is free to access
- Awareness of other relevant policies including those for pupils with complex medical care needs/intimate care needs

3. Managing Medicine on School Premises

Medicines will only be administered at school when it would be detrimental to a child's health or school attendance not to do so. This issue is covered in detail in the school's **Medical Needs - Administration of Medicines** policy.

- no child under 16 will be given prescription medicines without their parent/carer's written consent.
- non-prescription medicines (eg, throat lozenges, paracetamol) will not be administered
- prescribed medication will not be administered without first checking maximum dosages and when the previous dose was taken or without first informing parents
- where clinically possible, the school will seek to ensure that parents request that medicines are prescribed in dose frequencies which enable them to be taken outside school hours
- Brington C of E Primary School will only accept prescribed medicines if these are in-date, labelled, provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include instructions for administration, dosage and storage. The exception to this is insulin, which must still be in date, but will generally be available to schools inside an insulin pen or a pump, rather than in its original container
- Staff will know which children need medication, where the medicines are stored and be able to access them immediately. Medication will be taken with the child when outside of school premises, e.g. on school trips
- when no longer required, medicines will be returned to the parent to arrange for safe disposal. Sharps boxes should always be used for the disposal of needles and other sharps
- school staff may administer

3.1 Controlled Drugs

Controlled drugs are prescription medicines that are controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 and subsequent amendments. Controlled drugs will be easily accessible in an emergency and a record of any doses used and the amount held will be kept.

4. Record Keeping

The school will ensure that written records are kept of all medicines administered to children – including medication refusals or errors.

5. Individual Healthcare Plans

The headteacher has overall responsibility for the development of IHPs for pupils with medical conditions.

Plans will be reviewed at least annually, or earlier if there is evidence that the pupil's needs have changed. Special consideration needs to be given to reviewing the plan when a young person is transitioning to a different setting or reintegrating back into school after a period of absence.

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 IHP. It will be agreed with a healthcare professional and the parents when an IHP would be inappropriate or disproportionate. This will be based on evidence. If there is not a consensus, the headteacher will make the final decision.

Plans will be drawn up in partnership with the school and parents/carers with advice from a relevant healthcare professional, such as a member of the HCP team, a specialist nurse, allied health professional or paediatrician who can best advise on the pupil's specific needs. The pupil will be involved wherever appropriate. If healthcare professionals cannot offer advice in person they may provide written guidance or information.

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

The level of detail in the plan will depend on the complexity of the child's condition and how much support is needed.

The headteacher and SENCO (where appropriate) will consider the following when deciding what information to record on IHPs:

- 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 spaces
- 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
- Who outside the school needs to be aware of the pupil's condition and the support required (with appropriate consent from the young person and family) – for example school transport provided by local authority

- 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 medication administration errors), including who to contact, and contingency arrangements

6. Emergency Procedures

As part of general risk management processes, the school will have arrangements in place for dealing with emergencies for all school activities wherever they take place, including on school trips. Where a child has an individual healthcare plan, this should clearly define what constitutes an emergency and explain what to do, including ensuring that all relevant staff are aware of emergency symptoms and procedures. If a child needs to be taken to hospital, a member of staff will stay with the child until the parent arrives, or accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance. Emergency treatments (for example asthma inhalers/adrenaline auto injectors) are held securely in the child's classroom and are always available.

7. Equal Opportunities

The Governing Board will ensure that the school enables 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.

The school acknowledges the Equalities Act 2010 and schools and works proactively to support all its pupils.

8. Unacceptable Practice:

Although school staff are encouraged to use their professional discretion and judge each case on its merits with reference to the child's individual healthcare plan, 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 for reasons associated with their medical condition 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, 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 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
- prevent children from participating, or create unnecessary barriers to children participating in any aspect of school life, including school trips, e.g. by requiring parents to accompany the child
- Use stigmatising or discriminative language and behaviour towards the child's medical condition or its symptoms

9. Attendance

A child or young person with a medical condition may have difficulties attending school at certain times. This could be due to planned appointments or surgery, or as a result of an increase in symptoms or deterioration of their overall health condition. Parents have a responsibility to advise schools of any planned appointments or predicted absence due to surgery/therapeutic intervention. Schools have a responsibility to code this absence appropriately. If a school does not have sufficient information regarding a young persons' health condition, and it is impacting on school attendance, they may contact Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Healthy Child Programme to request a school nurse attendance health check. If this process does not identify sufficient information schools can also contact GP's with parental consent. If absence due to a medical condition is noted to be for more than 15 days, schools should consult Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Healthy Child Programme for advice and support.

Cambridgeshire County Council's Education Improvement Officer works with the school on attendance and we are guided by the following policies:
Cambridgeshire Medical Needs Policy: cambslearntogether.co.uk/asset-library/Cambridgeshire-Medical-Needs-Policy-Oct-23.pdf

https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/education-system/access-to-education-for-children-with-health-needs

Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/941900/health_needs_guidance_accessible.pdf

State of the nation 2022: children and young people's wellbeing - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-of-the-nation-2022-children-and-young-peoples-wellbeing

Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools - https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-issues-affecting-a-pupils-attendance-guidance-for-schools

10. Liability & Indemnity

The Governing Board will ensure that the appropriate level of insurance is in place and appropriately reflects the level of risk. Proprietors of academies will ensure that either the appropriate level of insurance is in place or that the academy is a member of the Department for Education's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA).

11. Complaints

The Governing Board will ensure that the school's policy sets out how complaints concerning the support provided to pupils with medical conditions may be made and will be handled.