



## Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs Policy

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Children's Services and Safety Team

Version 1 – September 2014

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| <b>Name of School:</b>                          | <b>Parsonage Farm Nursery and Infant School</b>                       |
| <b>Name of Responsible Manager/Headteacher:</b> | <b>Kath Greenway</b>  |
| <b>Date Policy approved and adopted by FGB:</b> | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2015</b>  |
| <b>Date Due for review:</b>                     | <b>Reviewed February 2017/2019/2021/2024<br/>Next Review Feb 2026</b> |

### Introduction

Section 100 of The Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on the governing body of this school to make arrangements for supporting children at their premises with medical conditions. The Department of Education have produced statutory guidance 'Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions' and we will have regard to this guidance when fulfilling this duty.

We, the Governing Body, will endeavour to ensure that children with medical conditions are properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. The aim is to ensure that all children with medical conditions, in

terms of both their physical and mental health, are properly supported in school so that they can play a full and active role in school life, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential.

It is our policy to ensure that all medical information will be treated confidentially by the Headteacher and staff. All administration of medicines is arranged and managed in accordance with the Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs Policy. All staff have a duty of care to follow and co-operate with the requirements of this policy.

Where children have a disability, the requirement of the Equality Act 2010 will apply.

Where children have an identified special need, the SEND Code of Practice will also apply.

We recognise that medical conditions may impact on social and emotional development as well as having educational implications.

## Key Roles & Responsibilities

**Statutory Requirement: The governing body should ensure that the school's policy clearly identifies the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in the arrangements they make to support children at school with medical conditions.**

The Governing Body (Facilities Group) is responsible for:

- Making 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
- Ensuring that sufficient staff have received suitable training and are competent before they take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions
- Reviewing the policy, training log and record keeping

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Making sure the school's policy is developed and effectively implemented
- Ensuring all staff who need to know are aware of a child's condition
- Ensuring that sufficient trained staff are available to implement the policy and deliver against all health care plans
- Developing individual health care plans
- Liaising with school nursing service when required
- Providing support to pupils with medical conditions, including the administering of medicines, if no other member of staff is willing to do so

Teachers and Support Staff are responsible for:

- Providing support to pupils with medical conditions, including the administering of medicines, **although they cannot be required to do so**
- Taking into account the needs of pupils with medical conditions that they teach
- Attending relevant training before taking on responsibility to support children with medical conditions

## Local Arrangements

### Identifying children with health conditions

**Statutory Requirement: The Governing body will ensure that the policy sets out the procedures to be followed whenever a school is notified that a pupil has a medical condition.**

The Headteacher will aim to identify children with medical needs on entry to the school by working in partnership with parents/ carers, pre schools and following the process outlined in the document 'Process for identifying children with a health condition' (Appendix A) 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' (Appendix B) 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.

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 support and evidence from medical professionals is sought and that consultation with the parents takes place.

Updates to Health Care Plans will be reported in Strategic & Facilities Focus Group Meetings.

## Individual health care plans

**Statutory Requirement: The Governing body will ensure that the school's policy covers the role of individual healthcare plans, and who is responsible for their development in supporting children at school with medical conditions.**

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 professional and parent 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 Headteacher 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 Headteacher 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 a statement or 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. (Appendix C)

If a child is returning following a period of hospital education or alternative provision (including home tuition), 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.

**Statutory Requirement: The governing body should ensure that all plans are reviewed at least annually or earlier if evidence is presented that the child's needs have changed. Plans should be developed with the child's best interests in mind and ensure that the**

**school assesses and manages the risks to the child's education, health and social well-being and minimises disruption.**

Review dates will be added to Health and Safety electronic calendar.

Health Care Plans will be reviewed by the Headteacher either annually or on receipt of evidence of change or facilities.

**Statutory Requirement: When deciding what information should be recorded on individual healthcare plans, the governing body should consider the following (see page 10 of DfE guidance):**

- The medical condition, its triggers, signs, symptoms and treatments
- The pupil's resulting needs
- Specific support for the pupil's educational, social and emotional needs
- The level of support needed including in emergencies
- Who will provide this support & their training needs
- Who in the school needs to be aware of the pupil's condition
- Separate arrangements for school trips
- What to do in an emergency, who to contact and contingency arrangements

#### **Staff training**

**Statutory Requirement: The Governing Body should ensure that this policy clearly sets out how staff will be supported in carrying out their role to support children with medical conditions, and how this will be reviewed. It should specify how training needs will be assessed and by whom training will be commissioned and provided.**

**The school policy should be clear that any member of school staff providing support to a child with medical needs should have received suitable training.**

**Staff must not administer prescription medicines or undertake any health care procedures without the appropriate training (updated to reflect any individual healthcare plans). Headteacher will be trained on all procedures.**

All new staff will be inducted on the policy when they join the school through meeting with the Headteacher. Records of this training will be stored on the Health and Safety Induction sheet for new staff.

All staff will be provided awareness training on the school's policy for supporting children with medical needs which will include what their role is in implementing the policy. This

training will be carried out every year as part of INSET training every September /or following a review of the policy.

The awareness training will be provided to staff at Staff Meetings or INSET Day training.

We will retain evidence that staff have been provided the relevant awareness training on the policy by signature sheets.

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 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.

A 'Staff training record– administration of medicines' (appendix D) form will be completed to document the type of awareness training undertaken, the date of training and the competent professional providing the training.

Records of training will be monitored by Strategic & Facilities Focus Group.

### The child's role

**Statutory Requirement: The Governing body will ensure that the school's policy covers arrangements for children who are competent to manage their own health needs and medicines.**

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 refuse 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

**Statutory Requirement: The Governing Body will ensure that the school's policy is clear about the procedures to be followed for managing medicines.**

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.

The School will not give prescription or non-prescription medicines to a child under 16 without their parent's/carers written consent (a 'parental agreement for school to administer medicines' form (Appendix E) 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 will be put in place. The tracking system used is the Medication Tracking Form. (Appendix F)

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.

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, 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.

The School 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 (Where the school have concerns they will seek further guidance from their link School Nurse).

The School will never administer aspirin or medicine containing Ibuprofen to any child under 16 years old unless prescribed by a doctor.

All other pain relief medicine will not be administered without first checking maximum dosages and when previously taken. We will always inform parents.

Any homeopathic remedies to be administered will require a letter of consent from the child's registered medical 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
- 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 premises.

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

Children will be made aware of where their medicines are at all times and be able to access them immediately where appropriate. Where relevant they should know who holds the key to the storage facility.

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**

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 by the Headteacher when necessary.

### **Medical Accommodation**

The Den will be used for all medical administration/treatment purposes. The location/room will be made available when required and the door will remain open during any treatment.

### **Record keeping**

**Statutory Requirement: The governing body should ensure that written records are kept of all medicines administered to children.**

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

Records of medicines administered and inhalers administered will be monitored by Strategic & Facilities Focus Group.

### Emergency Procedures

**Statutory Requirement: The Governing body will ensure that the school's policy sets out what should happen in an emergency situation.**

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 arrive, this includes accompanying them to hospital by ambulance if necessary (taking any relevant medical information, medication, care plans etc. that the school holds).

### Day trips/off site activities

**Statutory Requirement: The Governing body should ensure that their arrangements are clear and unambiguous about the need to support actively pupils with medical conditions to participate in school trips and visits, or in sporting activities, and not prevent them from doing so.**

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.

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| <b>Other issues</b>  |
| <b>Unacceptable practice</b>   |
| <p><b>Statutory Requirement: The governing body will ensure that the school's policy is explicit about what practice is not acceptable.</b></p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prevent children from easily accessing their inhalers and medication and administering their medication when and where necessary;</li> <li>• assume that every child with the same condition requires the same treatment;</li> <li>• ignore the views of the child or their parents; or ignore medical evidence or opinion (although this may be challenged);</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• if the child becomes ill, send them to the school office or medical room unaccompanied or with someone unsuitable;</li> <li>• penalise children for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical condition, e.g. hospital appointments;</li> <li>• prevent pupils from drinking, eating or taking toilet or other breaks whenever they need to in order to manage their medical condition effectively;</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Liability and Indemnity</b>   |
| <p><b>Statutory Requirement: The governing body will ensure that the appropriate level of insurance is in place and appropriately reflects the level of risk.</b></p> <p>Staff at the school are indemnified under the County Council self insurance arrangements.</p>   |

The County Council's 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

**Statutory Requirement: The governing body will ensure that the school's policy sets out how complaints may be made and will be handled concerning the support provided to pupils with medical conditions**

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.

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| <b>Signature of Responsible<br/>Manager/Headteacher:</b> | <i>K. Greenway</i>        |
| <b>Signature of Chair of Governors:</b>                  | <i>J. Hawkins</i>         |
| <b>Date:</b>   | 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2024 |