



## **SUPPORTING PUPILS AT SCHOOL WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Administering Medicines policy and, if applicable, the SEN policy. It will be reviewed annually.

This policy is written in regard to section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 which places a duty on governing bodies to make arrangements for supporting pupils at their school with medical conditions.

### **AIMS**

- To ensure pupils at school with medical conditions, in terms of both physical and mental health, are properly supported so they can play a full and active role in school life, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential.
- To ensure the needs of pupils with medical conditions are effectively supported in consultation with health and social care professionals, their parents and the pupils themselves.

### **PROCEDURE**

The named person ( Miss Green) is responsible for ensuring that whenever the school is notified that a pupil has a medical condition:

- Sufficient staff are suitably trained
- All relevant staff are made aware of the pupil's condition
- Cover arrangements in case of staff absence/turnover is always available
- Supply teachers are briefed
- Risk assessments whilst in schools and for educational visits and activities out of the normal timetable are carried out
- Individual healthcare plans are monitored (at least annually)
- If a pupil's needs change, the above measures are adjusted accordingly

Where pupils are joining St. Mary & St. Thomas Aquinas at the start of a new academic year, these arrangements should be in place for the start of the term. Where a pupil joins mid-term or a new diagnosis is given, arrangements should be in place as soon as possible, ideally within 2/3 weeks.

Any pupil with a medical condition requiring medication or support in school should have an individual healthcare plan which details the support that child needs. If the parents, healthcare professionals and school agree that a healthcare plan is inappropriate or disproportionate, a

record of the pupil's medical condition and any implications for the pupil will be kept in the school's medical record and the pupil's individual record.

### **INDIVIDUAL HEALTHCARE PLANS (IHPs)**

The following information should always be considered when writing an individual healthcare plan:

- The medical condition, its triggers, signs, symptoms and treatments
- The pupil's resulting needs, including medication and other treatments, times, facilities, equipment, testing, dietary requirements and environmental issues
- Specific support for the pupil's educational, social and emotional needs
- The level of support needed including in emergencies
- Who will provide support, their training needs, expectation of their role, confirmation of their proficiency and cover arrangements
- 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 head teacher for medication to be administered by a member of staff or self – administered ( pupils who are competent should be encouraged to take responsibility for managing their own medicines and procedures, with an appropriate level of supervision)
- 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
- Confidentiality
- What to do if a child refuses to take medicine or carry out the necessary procedure
- What to do in an emergency, who to contact and contingency arrangements
- Where a child has SEN but does not have an Education, health and Care plan, their special educational needs should be mentioned in their individual healthcare plan

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Supporting a pupil with a medical condition during school hours is not the sole responsibility of one person. Our school will work collaboratively with any relevant person or agency to provide effective support for the pupil.

### **The Governing Body**

- Must make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions and ensure this policy is developed and implemented
- Must ensure sufficient staff receive suitable training and are competent to support pupils with medical conditions
- To make reasonable adjustments in order to accommodate the child (DDA 1995) however this can't always be guaranteed. If, having considered the issue thoroughly, there are genuinely no steps that it would be reasonable for school to take, then parents will be informed. The extent to which the special provision/ adjustment will be provided to the child will depend upon; the practicability of the adjustment, financial costs and the health and safety of the child as well as the other children in the school. (*Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014*).
- Must ensure appropriate level of insurance is in place and appropriately reflects the level of risk

### **The Head teacher**

- Should ensure all staff are aware of this policy and understand their role in its implementation
- Should ensure all staff who need to know are informed of a pupil's condition
- Should ensure sufficient numbers of staff are trained to implement the policy and deliver IHPs, including in emergency and contingency situations, and they are appropriately insured
- Is responsible for the development of IHPs
- Should contact the school nursing service in the case of any child with a medical condition who has not been brought to the attention of the school nurse

### **School Staff**

- Any staff member may be asked to provide support to pupils with medical conditions, including the administering of medicines, although they cannot be required to do so
- Should receive sufficient and suitable training and achieve the necessary level of competency before taking on the responsibility of supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Any staff member should know what to do and respond accordingly when they become aware that a pupil with a medical condition needs help

## **School Nurses**

- Are responsible for notifying the school when a child has been identified as having a medical condition which will require support in school
- May support staff on implementing a pupils IHP and provide advice and liaison

## **Other Healthcare Professionals**

- Should notify the school nurse when a pupil has been identified as having a medical condition that will require support at school
- May provide advice on developing healthcare plans
- Specialist local teams may be able to provide support for particular conditions (Asthma, diabetes)

## **Pupils**

- Should, wherever possible, be fully involved in discussions about their medical support needs and contribute to and comply with, their IHP

## **Parents**

- Must provide the school with sufficient and up to date information about their child's medical needs and may be asked to produce a signed letter from the GP
- Are the key partners and should be involved in the development and review of their child's IHP
- Should carry out any action they have agreed to as part of the IHP implementation

## **Additional Information**

The school does not have to accept a pupil identified as having a medical condition or physical disability at times when it would be detrimental to the health of that pupil or others to do so.

### ***The following practice is considered not acceptable:***

- Preventing pupils from easily accessing their medication and administering it when and where necessary
- Assuming pupils with the same condition require the same treatment
- Ignoring the views of the pupil, their parents; ignoring medical advice or opinion
- Sending pupils with medical conditions home frequently or prevent them from staying for normal school activities (unless specified in IHP)

- Penalising pupils for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical condition that is recognised under this policy
- Preventing pupils from drinking, eating or taking toilet breaks whenever they need to in order to manage their medical condition effectively
- To require parents to attend school to administer medication or provide medical support to their child, including toileting issues (no parent should have to give up working because the school is failing to support their child's medical needs)
- Preventing pupils from participating, or create unnecessary barriers to pupil participating in any aspect of school life, including school trips (such as requiring parents to accompany the child)

## **Complaints**

Should parents or pupils be dissatisfied with the support provided, they should discuss their concerns directly with the school. If this does not resolve the issue, they make a formal complaint via the school's complaint procedure.