

Willerby Carr Lane Primary School



SUPPORTING CHILDREN AT SCHOOL WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS POLICY

References

This policy has been drawn up following guidance contained within Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions: Statutory guidance, Department for Education.

Key Points

- Pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education.
- Governing bodies must ensure that arrangements are in place in schools to support pupils at school with medical conditions.
- Governing bodies should ensure that school leaders consult health and social care professionals, pupils and parents to ensure that the needs of children with medical conditions are effectively supported.

Policy Implementation

The School's Administration Assistant, Mrs Dawn Clipson is responsible for ensuring that:

- individual healthcare plans are drawn up and monitored;
- sufficient staff are suitably trained in managing the child's medical condition;
- all relevant staff are made aware of the child's condition;
- cover arrangements are in place in case of staff absence or staff turnover to ensure someone is always available;
- supply teachers are briefed.

Procedure to be followed when notification is received that a pupil has a medical condition

For children starting at school, arrangements should be in place in time for the start of the relevant school term. In other cases, such as a new diagnosis or children joining school mid-term, every effort should be made to ensure that arrangements are put in place within two weeks. Schools do not have to wait for a formal diagnosis before providing support to pupils.

In cases where a pupil's medical condition is unclear, or where there is a difference of opinion, judgements will be needed about what support to provide based on the available evidence. This would normally involve some form of medical evidence and consultation with parents. Where evidence conflicts, some degree of challenge may be necessary to ensure that the right support can be put in place.

Individual Health Care Plans

IHCPs need to be clear about what needs to be done, when and by whom. The school, healthcare professional and parent should agree, based on evidence, when a healthcare plan would be inappropriate or disproportionate. If consensus cannot be reached, the headteacher is best placed to take a final view.

The format of individual healthcare plans is set out in **Template A: Individual Healthcare Plan**. Plans should not be a burden on a school, but should capture the key information and actions that are required to support the child effectively. The level of detail within plans will depend on the complexity of the child's condition and the degree of support needed.

Plans should be drawn up in partnership between the school, parents, and a relevant healthcare professional, who can best advise on the particular needs of the child. Pupils should also be involved whenever appropriate. The aim should be to capture the steps which the school should take to help the child manage their condition and overcome any potential barriers to getting the most from their education. Responsibility for ensuring the IHCP is finalised and implemented rests with the school.

The governing body should ensure that plans are reviewed at least annually or earlier if evidence is presented that the child's needs have changed. They should be developed with the child's best interests in mind and ensure that the school assesses and manages risks to the child's education, health and social well-being and minimises disruption.

Information required on an Individual Health Care Plans

IHCPs should contain 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.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Governing body - 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. Governing bodies should ensure that sufficient staff have received suitable training and are competent before they take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions.
- Headteacher – should ensure that the school's policy is developed and effectively implemented with partners. The Headteacher has overall responsibility for the development of individual healthcare plans.
- 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 - They should support staff on implementing a child's individual healthcare plan and provide advice and liaison, for example on training.
- Other healthcare professionals, including GPs and paediatricians - should notify the school nurse when a child has been identified as having a medical condition that will require support at school. They may provide advice on developing healthcare plans. Specialist local health teams may be able to provide support in schools for children with particular conditions (eg asthma, diabetes).
- Pupils – with medical conditions will often be best placed to provide information about how their condition affects them. 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.
- Parents – should 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, eg provide medicines and equipment and ensure they or another nominated adult are contactable at all times.

Staff Training and Support

- Any member of school staff providing support to a pupil with medical needs should have received suitable training. This should have been identified during the development or review of individual healthcare plans. Some staff may already have some knowledge of the specific

support needed by a child with a medical condition and so extensive training may not be required.

- **Staff must not give prescription medicines or undertake health care procedures without appropriate training** (updated to reflect any individual healthcare plans). See **Template D: staff training record – administration of medicines.**
- A first-aid certificate does not constitute appropriate training in supporting children with medical conditions.
- Routine general antibiotics prescribed 4 times or more a day, do not require specific training to be administered by designated staff.
- The family of a child will often be key in providing relevant information to school staff about how their child's needs can be met, and parents should be asked for their views. They should provide specific advice, but wherever possible, they should not be the sole trainer. (Exceptions may be made at the Headteacher's discretion for a short term acute period).

The Child's Role in Managing their Own Medical Needs

After discussion with parents, children who are competent should be encouraged to take responsibility for managing their own medicines and procedures. This should be reflected within individual healthcare plans.

Managing Medicines on School Premises

- Medicines should only be administered at school when it would be detrimental to a child's health or school attendance not to do so.
- **As per Department of Health guidelines: *"It is helpful, where clinically appropriate, if medicines are prescribed in dose frequencies which enable it to be taken outside school hours. Parents could be encouraged to ask the prescriber about this. It is to be noted that medicines that need to be taken three times a day could be taken in the morning, after school hours and at bedtime."* Only those medicines which are required at least 4 times a day will be given at school and, in such cases, only 1 dose will be provided at school.** (see Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings, Dept of Health.)
- No child should be given prescription or non-prescription medicines without their parent's written consent.
- School should only accept prescribed medicines that 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)
- All medicines should be stored safely.
- Children should know where their medicines are at all times and be able to access them immediately. Where relevant, they should know who holds the key to the storage facility.
- Medicines and devices such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing meters and adrenaline pens should be always readily available to children and not locked away. This is particularly important to consider when outside of school premises eg on school trips.
- Only designated members of staff should administer medicines.
- Designated staff must check that the parent has submitted **Template B: parental agreement for setting to administer medicine.**
- Designated staff may administer a controlled drug to the child for whom it has been prescribed. Staff administering medicines must only do so in accordance with the prescriber's instructions.

- School should **keep a record of all medicines administered** to individual children, stating what, how and how much was administered, when and by whom using **Template C: record of medicine administered to all children** held in the school office. Any side effects of the medication to be administered at school should be noted.
- When no longer required, medicines should be returned to the parent to arrange for safe disposal. Sharps boxes should always be used for the disposal of needles and other sharps.

Emergency procedures

- 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.
- Other pupils in the school should know what to do in general terms, such as informing a teacher immediately if they think help is needed.
- If a child needs to be taken to hospital, staff should stay with the child until the parent arrives, or accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance.

Day Trips, Residential Visits and Sporting Activities

School should make arrangements for the inclusion of pupils in such activities with any adjustments as required unless evidence from a clinician such as a GP states that this is not possible.

Unacceptable Practice

It is not generally acceptable practice to:

- accept medicines that have been taken out of the container as originally dispensed nor make changes to dosages on parental instructions;
- 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;
- prevent pupils from drinking, eating or taking toilet or other breaks whenever they need to in order to manage their medical condition effectively;
- create unnecessary barriers to children participating in any aspect of school life, including school trips, eg by requiring parents to accompany the child.
- send children to school with prescribed or non-prescribed medicines.



Template A: Individual Healthcare Plan

Name of school/setting	Willerby Carr Lane Primary School
Child's name	
Group/class/form	
Date of birth	
Medical diagnosis or condition	
Date	
Review date	

Family Contact Information

Name	
Phone no. (work)	
(home)	
(mobile)	
Name	
Relationship to child	
Phone no. (work)	
(home)	
(mobile)	

Clinic/Hospital Contact

Name	
Phone no.	

G.P.

Name	
Phone no.	

Describe medical needs and give details of child's symptoms, triggers, signs, treatments, facilities, equipment or devices, environmental issues etc

Name of medication, dose, method of administration, when to be taken, side effects, contra-indications, administered by/self-administered with/without supervision

Daily care requirements

Specific support for the pupil's educational, social and emotional needs

Arrangements for school visits/trips etc

Other information

Describe what constitutes an emergency, and the action to take if this occurs

Who is responsible in an emergency (*state if different for off-site activities*)

Plan developed with

Staff training needed/undertaken – who, what, when



Template B: parental agreement for setting to administer medicine

The school will not give your child medicine unless you complete and sign this form.

Date for review to be initiated by	
Name of school/setting	Willerby Carr Lane Primary School
Name of child	
Date of birth	
Group/class/form	
Medical condition or illness	

Medicine

Name/type of medicine <i>(as described on the container)</i>	
Expiry date	
Dosage and method	
Timing	
Special precautions/other instructions	
Are there any side effects that the school/setting needs to know about?	
Self-administration – y/n	
Procedures to take in an emergency	

NB: School will only accept prescribed medicines that 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)

Contact Details

Name	
Daytime telephone no.	
Relationship to child	
Address	
I understand that I must deliver the medicine personally to	School Office Admin Staff

The above information is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate at the time of writing and I give consent to school/setting staff administering medicine in accordance with the school/setting policy. I will inform the school/setting immediately, in writing, if there is any change in dosage or frequency of the medication or if the medicine is stopped.

Signature(s) _____

Date _____



Template D: staff training record – administration of medicines

Name of school/setting

Willerby Carr Lane Primary School

Name

Type of training received

Date of training completed

Training provided by

Profession and title

I confirm that [name of member of staff] has received the training detailed above and is competent to carry out any necessary treatment. I recommend that the training is updated [name of member of staff].

Trainer's signature _____

Date _____

I confirm that I have received the training detailed above.

Staff signature _____

Date _____

Suggested review date



Template E: model letter inviting parents to contribute to individual healthcare plan development

Dear Parent

DEVELOPING AN INDIVIDUAL HEALTHCARE PLAN FOR YOUR CHILD

Thank you for informing us of your child's medical condition. I enclose a copy of the school's policy for supporting pupils at school with medical conditions for your information.

A central requirement of the policy is for an individual healthcare plan to be prepared, setting out what support the each pupil needs and how this will be provided. Individual healthcare plans are developed in partnership between the school, parents, pupils, and the relevant healthcare professional who can advise on your child's case. The aim is to ensure that we know how to support your child effectively and to provide clarity about what needs to be done, when and by whom. Although individual healthcare plans are likely to be helpful in the majority of cases, it is possible that not all children will require one. We will need to make judgements about how your child's medical condition impacts on their ability to participate fully in school life, and the level of detail within plans will depend on the complexity of their condition and the degree of support needed.

A meeting to start the process of developing your child's individual health care plan has been scheduled for xx/xx/xx. I hope that this is convenient for you and would be grateful if you could confirm whether you are able to attend. The meeting will involve [the following people]. Please let us know if you would like us to invite another medical practitioner, healthcare professional or specialist and provide any other evidence you would like us to consider at the meeting as soon as possible.

If you are unable to attend, it would be helpful if you could complete the attached individual healthcare plan template and return it, together with any relevant evidence, for consideration at the meeting. I [or another member of staff involved in plan development or pupil support] would be happy for you contact me [them] by email or to speak by phone if this would be helpful.

Yours sincerely