



Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy

Approved by: Children's Committee **Date:** 17th March 2021

Signed by: (Chair)

Last reviewed on: March 2021

Next review due by: Spring 2022

The North & South West Durham Learning Federation 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 December 15 – "Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions" under a statutory duty form section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Updated August 2017.

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, also including those pupils with medical conditions.

1) Key roles and responsibilities

a) The Local Authority (LA) is responsible for:

- 1) Promoting co-operation between relevant partners regarding supporting pupils with medical conditions.
- 2) Providing support, advice /guidance and training to schools and their staff to ensure Individual Healthcare Plans (IHP) are effectively delivered.
- 3) Working with schools to ensure pupils attend full-time or make alternative arrangements for the education of pupils who need to be out of school for fifteen days or more due to a health need and who otherwise would not receive a suitable education.

b) The Governing Body of The North & South West Durham Learning Federation is responsible for:

- 1) Ensuring arrangements are in place to support pupils with medical conditions.
- 2) Ensuring the policy is developed collaboratively across services, clearly identifying roles and responsibilities and implementing effectively.

- 3) Ensuring that the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy does not discriminate on any grounds including, but not limited to protected characteristics: ethnicity/national/ origin, religion or belief, sex, gender reassignment, pregnancy & maternity, disability or sexual orientation.
- 4) Ensuring the policy covers arrangements for pupils who are competent to manage their own health needs.
- 5) 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.
- 6) 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. Staff to have access to information, resources and materials.
- 7) Ensuring written records are kept of, any and all, medicines administered to pupils.
- 8) Ensuring the policy sets out procedures in place for emergency situations.
- 9) Ensuring the level of insurance in place reflects the level of risk.
- 10) Ensuring that complaints regarding this policy are handled as outlined in the school's Complaints Policy.

c) **The Executive Headteacher / Head of School is responsible for:**

- 1) Ensuring the policy is developed effectively with partner agencies and then making staff aware of this policy.
- 2) The day-to-day implementation and management of the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy and Procedures of The North & South West Durham Learning Federation.
- 3) Liaising with healthcare professionals regarding the training required for staff.
- 4) Identifying staff who need to be aware of a child's medical condition.
- 5) Ensuring a sufficient number of trained members of staff are available to implement the policy and deliver IHPs in normal, contingency and emergency situations.
- 6) 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.

- 7) Ensuring the correct level of insurance is in place for teachers who support pupils in line with this policy.
- 8) Supporting a continuous two way liaison with school nurses and in the case of any child who has or develops an identified medical condition.
- 9) Ensuring confidentiality and data protection
- 10) Assigning appropriate accommodation for medical treatment/ care
- 11) Making life saving equipment available (All three schools have at least one defibrillator)
- 12) Voluntarily holding 'spare' salbutamol asthma inhalers and if appropriate VNS magnets for emergency use.

d) Staff members are responsible for:

- 1) 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.*
- 2) Knowing where controlled drugs are stored and where the key is held.
- 3) Taking account of the needs of pupils with medical conditions in lessons.
- 4) 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.
- 5) Allowing inhalers, adrenalin pens and blood glucose testers to be held in an accessible location, following DfE guidance.

e) School nurses are responsible for:

- 1) Collaborating on developing an IHP in anticipation of a child with a medical condition starting school.
- 2) Notifying the school when a child has been identified as requiring support in school due to a medical condition at any time in their school career.
- 3) Supporting staff to implement an IHP and then participate in regular reviews of the IHP. Giving advice and liaison on training needs.
- 4) Liaising locally with lead clinicians on appropriate support. Assisting the Executive Headteacher in identifying training needs and providers of training.

f) Parents and carers are responsible for:

- 1) Keeping the school informed about any new medical condition or changes to their child/children's health.
- 2) Participating in the development and regular reviews of their child's IHP.
- 3) Completing a parental consent form to administer medicine or treatment before bringing medication into school.
- 4) Providing the school with the medication their child requires and keeping it up to date including collecting leftover medicine.
- 5) Carrying out actions assigned to them in the IHP with particular emphasis on, they or a nominated adult, being contactable at all times.

g) Pupils are responsible for:

- 1) Providing information on how their medical condition affects them.
- 2) Contributing to their IHP where possible
- 3) 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.

2) Training of staff

- a) Newly appointed teachers and support staff will receive training on the 'Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions' Policy as part of their induction.
- b) The clinical lead for each training area/session will be named on each IHP.
- c) No staff member may administer prescription medicines unless they have had appropriate training other than in an emergency
- d) No staff member may undertake any healthcare procedures without undergoing training specific to the condition and signed off as competent.
- e) School will keep a record of medical conditions supported, training undertaken and a list of teachers qualified to undertake responsibilities under this policy. They will notify Health & Safety DCC, and Risk, Insurance & Governance Manager, DCC.

3) Medical conditions register /list

- a) Schools admissions forms will request information on pre-existing medical conditions. *See admission form here.* Parents will have an easy pathway to inform school at any point in the school year if a condition develops or is diagnosed.

Consideration will be given to seeking consent from GPs to have input into the IHP and also to share information for recording attendance.

- b) A medical conditions list or register will be kept, updated and reviewed regularly by the nominated member of staff. Each member of staff will have easy access to an overview of the list for the pupils in their care.
- c) Supply staff and support staff will usually have access on a need to know basis. Parents will be assured data sharing principles are adhered to.
- d) For pupils on the medical conditions list key stage transition meetings will take place in advance of transferring to enable parents, school and health professionals to prepare IHP and train staff if appropriate.

4) Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

- a) Where necessary an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) will be developed in collaboration with the pupil, parents/carers, Executive Headteacher, Head of School, Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) and medical professionals.
- b) IHPs will be easily accessible to all relevant staff, including supply/agency staff, whilst preserving confidentiality. Staffrooms are inappropriate locations under Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) advice for displaying IHP as visitors /parent helpers etc. may enter. At The North & South West Durham Learning Federation IHPs are stored in the medical room. If consent is sought from parents a photo and instructions may be displayed in appropriate locations. ***However, in the case of conditions with potential life-threatening implications the information should be available clearly and accessible to everyone e.g. information regarding severe food allergies displayed in the kitchen areas***
- c) IHPs will be reviewed at least annually or when a child's medical circumstances change, whichever is sooner.
- d) Where a pupil has an Education, Health and Care plan this will be linked with their statement or EHCP documentation
- e) Where a child is returning from a period of hospital education or alternative provision or home tuition, collaboration between the LA /AP provider and school is needed to ensure that the IHP identifies the support the child needs to reintegrate.

5) Transport arrangements

Where a pupil with an IHP is allocated school transport the transport team will communicate all relevant information to operator. For new contracts the individual transport company will be expected to carry out a home visit to confirm details for each child in order to assist them in providing the individual service to meet that child's needs.

Depending on the child's condition Christine Graham (Education Transport) may liaise with the school as to what training the drivers and taxis have, or may need.

- a) Transport team will ensure that the information is supplied when a change of operator takes place.
- b) For some medical conditions the driver/ escort will require adequate training. For pupils who receive specialised support in school with their medical condition this must equally be planned for in travel arrangements to school and included in the specification to tender for that pupil's transport.
- c) When prescribed, controlled drugs need to be sent in to school, parents will be responsible for handing them over to the adult in the car in a suitable bag or container. They must be clearly labelled with name and dose etc. NB Transport operators are not obliged to carry medication
- d) Controlled drugs will be kept under the supervision of the adult in the car throughout the journey and handed to a school staff member on arrival. Any change in this arrangement will be reported to the Transport team for approval or appropriate action.

6) Education Health Needs (EHN) referrals

- a) 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.
- b) 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.

7) Medicines

- a) 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.

- b) 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.
- c) No child will be given any medicines without written parental consent except in exceptional circumstances. All medicines must be prescribed by a doctor.
- d) Where a pupil is prescribed medication by a healthcare professional without their parents'/carers' knowledge, every effort will be made to encourage the pupil to involve their parents while respecting their right to confidentiality.
- e) No child under 16 years of age will be given medication containing aspirin without a doctor's prescription.
- f) 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.
- g) A child who has been prescribed a controlled drug may legally have it in their possession **if they are competent to do so**, but passing it to another child for use is an offence. Monitoring arrangements will be necessary. The school will otherwise keep controlled drugs that have been prescribed for a pupil securely stored in a non-portable container and only named staff will have access. Controlled drugs will be easily accessible in an emergency.
- h) Medications will be stored in a locked cupboard in the medical room.
- i) Any medications left over at the end of the course will be returned to the child's parents or taken to a pharmacist for safe disposal.
- j) Written records will be kept of any medication administered to children. These records will be retained for five years and be passed on when the child leaves school
- k) Pupils will never be prevented from accessing their medication e.g. inhalers.
- l) Emergency salbutamol inhaler kits may be kept voluntarily by school
- m) General posters about medical conditions (diabetes, asthma, epilepsy etc.) are visible in the staff room
- n) The North & South West Durham Learning Federation cannot be held responsible for side effects that occur when medication is taken correctly.
- o) Staff will not force a pupil, if the pupil refuses to comply with their health procedure, and the resulting actions will be clearly written into the IHP which will include informing parents and relevant professionals.

8) Emergencies

- a) 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.
- b) Pupils will be informed in general terms of what to do in an emergency such as telling a teacher.
- c) If a pupil needs to be taken to hospital, a member of staff will remain with the child until their parents arrive. Staff will carry any relevant information including a care plan if appropriate.

9) Day trips, residential visits and sporting activities

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

10) Avoiding unacceptable practice

Each case will be judged individually but in general the following is not considered acceptable.

The following behaviour is unacceptable in **The North & South West Durham Learning Federation**

- a) Preventing children from easily accessing their inhalers and medication and administering their medication when and where necessary.
- b) Assuming that pupils with the same condition require the same treatment.
- c) Ignoring the views of the pupil and/or their parents or ignoring medical evidence or opinion.
- d) Sending pupils home frequently without due cause or preventing them from taking part in activities at school
- e) Sending the pupil to the medical room or school office alone or with an unsuitable escort if they become ill.
- f) Penalising pupils with medical conditions for their attendance record where the absences relate to their condition.

- g) Making parents feel obliged or forcing parents to attend school to administer medication or provide medical support, including toilet issues.
- h) Creating barriers to children participating in school life, including school trips.
- i) Refusing to allow pupils to eat, drink or use the toilet when they need to in order to manage their condition.

11) Insurance

- a) Staff who undertake responsibilities within this policy will be assured by the Headteacher that they are covered by the LA/school's insurance.
- b) 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 school Business Manager.

12) Complaints

- a) All complaints should be raised with the school in the first instance.
- b) The details of how to make a formal complaint can be found in the School Complaints Policy.

13) Definitions

- a) '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.
- b) '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.*
- c) 'Medication' is defined as any prescribed or over the counter treatment.
- d) '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.
- e) A 'staff member' is defined as any member of staff employed at The North & South West Durham Learning Federation.

Policies reviewed by Mrs Crawford, Ms Benson & Mr Davis March 2021

Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions

