

# **The Abbey Primary School**

## **Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs in School Policy (Including children with health needs who cannot attend school)**

This policy sets out the duty on the school's governing body under Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014, which came into force on 1 September 2014.

### **School Context**

The staff at The Abbey Primary School are committed to providing pupils with a high quality education whatever their health needs, disability or individual circumstances. We believe that all pupils should have access to as much education as their particular medical condition allows, so that they maintain the momentum of their learning whether they are attending school or going through periods of treatment and recuperation. We promote inclusion and will make all reasonable adjustments to ensure that children and young people with a disability, health need or SEN are not discriminated against or treated less favourably than other pupils.

### **Principles**

This policy and any ensuing procedures and practice are based on the following principles.

- All children and young people are entitled to a high quality education;
- Disruption to the education of children with health needs should be minimised;
- If children can be in school they should be in school. Children's diverse personal, social and educational needs are most often best met in school. Our school will make reasonable adjustments where necessary to enable all children to attend school;
- Effective partnership working and collaboration between schools, families, education services, health services and all agencies involved with a child or young person are essential to achieving the best outcomes for the child;
- Children with health needs often have additional social and emotional needs. Attending to these additional needs is an integral element in the care and support that the child requires; and that
- Children and young people with health needs are treated as individuals, and are offered the level and type of support that is most appropriate for their circumstances; staff should strive to be responsive to the needs of individuals.

As a school we will not engage in unacceptable practice, as follows:

- 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 a 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;
- prevent children from easily accessing their inhalers and medication and administering their medication when and where necessary;
- penalise children for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical condition e.g. hospital appointments;
- require parents, or otherwise make them feel obliged, to attend school to administer medication or provide medical support to their child. Individual healthcare plans will be used to address issues linked to medical conditions, such as toileting. No parent should have to give up working because the school is failing to support their child's medical needs; nor
- 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 their child.

### **Definition of health needs**

For the purpose of this policy, pupils with health needs may be:

- pupils with **chronic or short term health conditions or a disability** involving specific access requirements, treatments, support or forms of supervision during the course of the school day or
- **sick children**, including those who are physically ill or injured or are recovering from medical interventions, or
- children with **mental or emotional health problems**.

This policy does not cover self-limiting infectious diseases of childhood, e.g. measles.

Some children with medical conditions may have a disability. A person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. Some may also have special educational needs (SEN) and may have a statement, or Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan which brings together health and social care needs, as well as their special educational provision.

The school's governing body will ensure that the school complies with its duties under the Equality Act 2010.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

All staff have a responsibility to ensure that all pupils at this school have equal access to the opportunities that will enable them to flourish and achieve to the best of their ability. In addition, designated staff have additional responsibilities as well as additional support and training needs.

### **Named person in school with responsibility for medical policy implementation**

The member of staff responsible for ensuring that pupils with health needs have proper access to education is Caroline Farmer (SENCo). The SENCo will be the person with whom parents/carers will discuss particular arrangements to be made in connection with the medical needs of a pupil. It will be the responsibility of the SENCo to pass on information to the relevant members of staff within the school. The SENCo will liaise with other agencies and professionals, as well as parents/carers, to ensure good communication and effective sharing of information and will contact the school nursing service in the case of any child who has a medical condition that may require support at school, but who has not yet been brought to the attention of the school nurse. This will enhance pupils' inclusion in the life of the school and enable optimum opportunities for educational progress and achievement.

### **Parents/carers and pupils**

Parents hold key information and knowledge and have a crucial role to play. Both parents and pupils will be involved in the process of making decisions. Parents are expected to keep the school informed about any changes in their children's condition or in the treatment their children are receiving, including changes in medication. Parents will be kept informed about arrangements in school and about contacts made with outside agencies.

### **School staff**

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 familiarise themselves with the medical needs of the pupils they work with. Training will be provided in connection with specific medical needs so that staff know how to meet individual needs, what precautions to take and how to react in an emergency.

### **The Headteacher**

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that all staff are aware of this policy and understand their role in its implementation. The headteacher will ensure that all staff who need to know are aware of a child's condition. The headteacher will also ensure that sufficient numbers of trained staff are available to implement the policy and deliver against all individual healthcare plans, including in contingency and emergency situations. The headteacher has overall responsibility for the development of individual healthcare plans. S/he will also make sure that school staff are appropriately insured and are aware that they are insured to support pupils in this way.

## **The Governing body**

The governing body is responsible for making arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions in school, including ensuring that this policy is developed and implemented. They will ensure that all pupils with medical conditions at this school are supported to enable the fullest participation possible in all aspects of school life. The governing body will ensure that sufficient staff have received suitable training and are competent before they take on any responsibility to support children with medical conditions. They will also ensure that any members of school staff who provide support to pupils with medical conditions are able to access information and other teaching support materials as needed.

## **School health teams**

School health teams are responsible for notifying the school when a child has been identified as having a medical condition which will require support in school. Wherever possible, they should do this before the child starts at the school. They may support staff on implementing a child's individual healthcare plan and provide advice and liaison.

## **Other healthcare professionals**

It is NHS policy that GPs and Paediatricians will 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.

Hospital and Outreach Education works with schools to support pupils with medical conditions to attend full time.

## **Staff training and support**

In carrying out their role to support pupils with medical conditions, school staff will receive appropriate training and support. Training needs will be identified during the development or review of individual healthcare plans. The relevant healthcare professional will lead on identifying and agreeing with the school, the type and level of training required, and how this can be obtained. The school will ensure that training is sufficient to ensure that staff are competent and confident in their ability to support pupils with medical conditions, and to fulfil the requirements as set out in individual healthcare plans.

Staff will not give prescription medicines or undertake health care procedures without appropriate training. A first-aid certificate does not constitute appropriate training in supporting children with medical conditions.

This policy will be publicised to all staff to raise awareness at a whole school level of the importance of supporting pupils with medical conditions, and to make all staff aware of their role in implementing this policy.

## **Procedures**

### **Notification**

Information about medical needs or SEN is requested on admission to the school. The SENCo will meet with parents/carers, ideally before the pupil attends school, to discuss specific needs and ensure a smooth transition into class. The SENCo will then access support and training from outside agencies, as applicable.

Medical information supplied by parents/carers is recorded on the school's SIMS database. Class Medical Books detailing the medical needs for the pupils in that particular class are produced annually at the start of each academic year, and updated throughout the year, as necessary. Class Medical Books are located in each classroom. Details and photographs of pupils with severe medical needs are displayed on a noticeboard in the staffroom. Confidentiality is assured by all members of staff.

Any medical concerns the school has about a pupil will be raised with the parents/carers and discussed with the school nurse.

Parents and carers are asked to keep the school informed of any changes to their child's condition or treatment.

### **Individual Healthcare Plans**

Not all children with medical needs will require an individual healthcare plan. The school, healthcare professional and parent should agree, based on evidence, when a healthcare plan would be required.

Individual healthcare plans will often be essential, such as in cases where conditions fluctuate or where there is a high risk that emergency intervention will be needed. Plans are also likely to be needed in cases where medical conditions are long-term and complex. Plans provide clarity about what needs to be done, when and by whom. *A flow chart for identifying and agreeing the support a child needs, and developing an individual healthcare plan is provided at appendix 1.*

Individual healthcare plans 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. This is important because different children with the same health condition may require very different support. *A template for individual healthcare plans is provided at appendix 2.*

Individual healthcare plans, and their review, may be initiated, in consultation with the parent, by a member of school staff or a healthcare professional involved in providing care to the child. Plans will be drawn up in partnership between the school, parents, and a relevant healthcare professional, e.g. school, specialist or children's community nurse, who can best advise on the particular needs of the child. Pupils will also be involved whenever appropriate.

Partners should agree who will take the lead in writing the plan, but responsibility for ensuring that it is finalised and implemented rests with the school. Plans are reviewed at least annually, or earlier if evidence is presented that the child's needs have changed. Individual healthcare plans are put in place when there is no link between a child's medical needs and educational needs. When a child's medical needs and educational needs are linked, the healthcare needs of the child will be addressed in the child's Individual Education Plan (IEP). When appropriate, a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP) will also be put in place.

Where a child is returning to school following a period of hospital education, the school will work with the appropriate hospital school or the Hospital and Outreach Education to ensure that the individual healthcare plan identifies the support the child will need to reintegrate effectively.

### **Pupils too ill to attend school**

When pupils are too ill to attend, the school will establish, where possible, the amount of time a pupil may be absent and identify ways in which the school can support the pupil in the short term (e.g. providing work to be done at home in the first instance). The school should make a referral to the Hospital and Outreach Education as soon as they become aware that a child is likely to be or has been absent for 15 school days. Where children have long-term health needs, the pattern of illness and absence from school can be unpredictable, so the most appropriate form of support for these children should be discussed and agreed between the school, the family, Hospital and Outreach Education and the relevant medical professionals.

### **Pregnancy**

Young women of compulsory school age who are pregnant are entitled to remain at school whenever and for as long as possible. The school will make reasonable adjustments to enable young pregnant women to remain in school. When there is medical evidence that continuing to attend school would be contrary to the young woman's or the unborn child's wellbeing, the school should make a referral to The Complimentary Education Academy. Following the birth of the baby, young mothers may benefit from home tuition for a temporary period before they return to school.

### **Medicines in school**

For the school's policy on medicines in school see Appendix 8 of the Health & Safety Policy.

If a child refuses to take medicine or carry out a necessary procedure, staff will not force them to do so, but follow the procedure agreed in the individual healthcare plan. Parents will then be informed so that alternative options can be considered.

## **Emergency Situations**

Where a child has an individual healthcare plan, this will 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, staff will stay with the child until the parent arrives, or accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance.

## **Day trips, Residential and Sporting Activities**

Pupils with medical conditions are actively supported to participate in school trips and visits, or in sporting activities. In planning such activities, teachers will undertake the appropriate risk assessment and will take into account how a child's medical condition might impact on their participation. For residential trips, a separate risk assessment is carried out for each child with an individual healthcare plan. Arrangements for the inclusion of pupils in such activities with any required adjustments will be made by the school unless evidence from a clinician such as a GP states that this is not in the child's best interests.

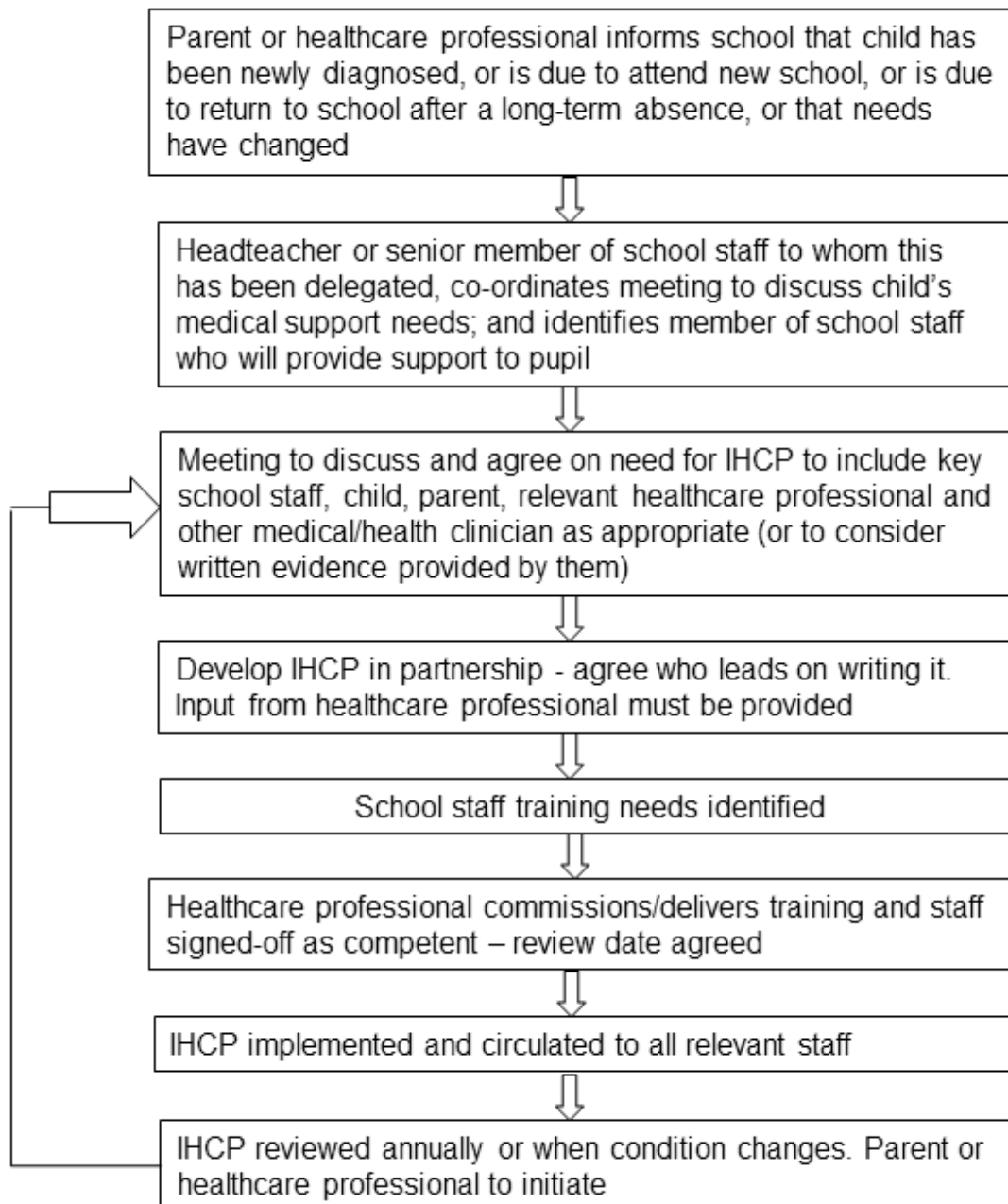
## **Liability and Indemnity**

The school's insurance arrangements are sufficient and appropriate to cover staff providing support to pupils with medical conditions. Staff providing such support are entitled to view the school's insurance policies.

## **Complaints**

If parents or pupils are dissatisfied with the support provided they should discuss their concerns directly with the school in the first instance. If for whatever reason this does not resolve the issue, they may make a formal complaint via the school's complaints procedure.

Appendix 1: Flow chart for developing an individual healthcare plan





**Appendix 2: Individual healthcare template**

***Name of School/setting/academy***

Pupil's name	
Group/class/form	
Date of birth	
Pupil's address	
Medical diagnosis or condition	
Date	
Review date	

**Family contact information**

First contact name	
Relationship to pupil	
Phone no (mobile)	
Phone no (home)	
Phone no (work)	
Second contact name	
Relationship to pupil	
Phone no (mobile)	
Phone no (home)	
Phone no (work)	

**Clinic/Hospital contact**

Name	
Phone no	

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**GP**

Name	
Phone no	
Person(s) responsible for providing support in school	

Describe the medical needs of the pupil

Give details of the pupil's symptoms

What are the triggers and signs?

What treatment is required?

Name of medication and storage instructions (if applicable)

Can pupil administer their own medication: YES/NO

Does pupil require supervision when taking their medication: YES/NO

Arrangements for monitoring taking of medication

Dose, when to be taken, and method of administration

Describe any side effects

Describe any other facilities, equipment, devices etc that might be required to manage the condition

Describe any environmental issues that might need to be considered

Daily care requirements

Specific support for the pupil's educational needs

Specific support for the pupil's social needs

Specific support for the pupil's emotional needs

Arrangements for school visits/trips/out of school activities required

Any other relevant information

Describe what constitutes an emergency and the action to be taken when this occurs

Named person responsible in case of an emergency

In school:

For off site activities:

Does pupil have emergency healthcare plan? YES/NO

Staff training required/undertaken

Who:

What:

When

Cover arrangements

(see separate staff training form)

People involved in development of plan

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Form to be copied to

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