

Medicine and Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions Policy

Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on the Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team to make arrangements for supporting pupils at The Trust with medical conditions. Pupils with special medical needs have the same right of admission to school as other children and cannot be refused admission or excluded from school on medical grounds alone. However, teachers and other school staff in charge of pupils have a common law duty to act in the place of the parent and may need to take swift action in an emergency. This duty also extends to teachers leading activities taking place off the school site. This could extend to a need to administer medicine. The prime responsibility for a child's health lies with the parent who is responsible for the child's medication and should supply the school with information. This Policy will be reviewed regularly and will be readily accessible to Parents/Carers and staff through our Trust website.

Definitions of Medical Conditions:

Pupils' medical needs may be broadly summarised as being of two types:

- Short-term affecting their participation in The Trust's activities because they are on a course of medication.
- Long-term potentially limiting their access to education and requiring extra care and support (deemed special medical needs).

The Role of Staff

Some children with medical conditions may be disabled. Where this is the case governing bodies must comply with their duties under the Equality Act 2010. Some may also have Special Educational Needs 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. For children with SEN, this guidance should be read in conjunction with the SEN Code of Practice. If a child is deemed to have a long-term medical condition, the school will ensure that arrangements are in place to support him/her. In doing so, we will ensure that such children can access and enjoy the same opportunities at school as any other child, in so far as their condition allows. The Trust, health professionals, Parents/Carers and other support services will work together to ensure that children with medical conditions receive a full education, unless this would not be in their best interests because of their health needs. In some cases this will require flexibility and involve, for example, programmes of study that rely on part time attendance at school in combination with alternative provision arranged by the Local Authority and health professionals. Consideration will also be given to how children will be reintegrated back into school after long periods of absence. Staff must not give prescription medicines or undertake health care procedures without appropriate training (updated to reflect any

Individual Health Care Plans). At the Trust, we recognise that a first-aid certificate does not constitute appropriate training in supporting children with medical conditions. Healthcare professionals will provide training and subsequent confirmation of the proficiency of staff in a medical procedure, or in providing medication

Procedures to be followed when Notification is received that a Pupil has a Medical Condition.

- We will ensure that the correct procedures will be followed whenever we are notified that a pupil has a medical condition. The procedures will also be in place to cover any transitional arrangements between schools, the process to be followed upon reintegration or when pupil's needs change and arrangements for any staff training or support.
- For children starting at The Trust, arrangements will be in place in time for the start of the relevant school term whenever possible. In other cases, such as a new diagnosis or children moving to The Trust mid-term, we will make every effort to ensure that arrangements are put in place within as soon as possible. In making the arrangements,
- The Trust will take into account that many of the medical conditions that require support at school will affect quality of life and may be life-threatening. We will also acknowledge that some will be more obvious than others. We will therefore ensure that the focus is on the needs of each individual child and how their medical condition impacts on their school life.
- The Trust will ensure that arrangements give Parents/Carers and pupils confidence in The Trust's ability to provide effective support for medical conditions in school.
- The arrangements will show an understanding of how medical conditions impact on a child's ability to learn, as well as increase their confidence and promote self-care.
- We will ensure that staff are properly trained to provide the support that pupils need.
- The Trust will ensure that 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. The Trust will 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.
- The Trust will make sure that no child with a medical condition is denied admission or prevented from attending The Trust because arrangements for their medical condition have not been made. However, in line with our Safeguarding duties, we will ensure that pupils' health is not put at unnecessary risk from, for example infectious diseases. We will therefore not accept a child in school at times where it would be detrimental to the health of that child or others.
- The Trust does 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/Carers.

- Where evidence conflicts, some degree of challenge may be necessary to ensure that the right support can be put in place. This will usually be led the SENCO.
- Following the discussions an Individual Health Care Plan will be put in place. Where a child has an Individual Health Care 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 Trust should know what to do in general terms, such as informing a teacher immediately if they think help is needed.
- If a child (regardless of whether they have an Individual Health Care Plan) needs to be taken to hospital, staff should stay with the child until the Parent/Carer arrives, or accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance.

Individual Health Care Plans

Individual Health Care Plans will be written and reviewed by the designated person (this may vary according to the Campus) but it will be the responsibility of all members of staff supporting the individual children to ensure that the Plan is followed. The tutor will be responsible for the child's development and ensuring that they and their medical conditions are supported at school. Individual Healthcare Plans will help to ensure that The Trust effectively supports pupils with medical conditions. They will provide clarity about what needs to be done, when and by whom. They will often be essential, such as in cases where conditions fluctuate or where there is a high risk that emergency intervention will be needed. They are likely to be helpful in the majority of other cases too, especially where medical conditions are long-term and complex. However, not all children will require one. Individual Health Care Plans will be easily accessible to all who need to refer to them, while preserving confidentiality. Plans will 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. Where a child has SEN but does not have a statement or EHC plan, their SEN should be mentioned in their Individual Health Care Plan. The Individual Health Care Plan must be completed by the Lead Professional (usually the SENCO) with support from Parents/Carers, 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 should also be involved whenever appropriate. The responsibility for ensuring it is finalised and implemented rests with The Trust. The Trust will ensure that Individual Health Care Plans are reviewed at least annually or earlier if evidence is presented that the child's needs have changed. They will be developed and reviewed with the child's best interests in mind and ensure that The Trust assesses and manages risks to the child's education, health and social wellbeing and minimises disruption. Where the child has a SEN identified in a statement or EHC plan, the Individual Health Care Plan should be linked to or become part of that statement or EHC plan.

The Child's Role in managing their own Medical Needs

If it is deemed, after discussion with the Parents/Carers, that a child is competent to manage their own health needs and medicines, The Trust will encourage them to take responsibility for managing their own medicines and procedures. This will be reflected within Individual Health Care Plans. Wherever possible, children should be allowed to carry their own medicines and relevant devices or should be able to access their medicines for self-medication quickly and easily; these will be stored in the cupboard in the Medical Room to ensure that the safeguarding of other children is not compromised. The Trust does also recognise that children who can take their medicines themselves or manage procedures may require an appropriate level of supervision. If a child is not able to self-medicate then relevant staff should help to administer medicines and manage procedures for them. If a child refuses to take medicine or carry out a necessary procedure, staff should not force them to do so but instead follow the procedure agreed in the Individual Health Care Plan. Parents/Carers should be informed, outside of the review, so that alternative options can be considered.

The following are the procedures to be followed for managing medicines:

- Medicines should only be administered at The Trust when it would be detrimental to a child's health or school attendance not to do so.
- No child under 16 should be given prescription or non-prescription medicines without their Parents/Carers written consent.
- We will not administer non-prescription medicines to a child, if a Parent/Carer wishes a child to have the non-prescription medicine administered during The Trust day, they will need to come to The Trust to administer it to their child.
- The Trust 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 inside an insulin pen or a pump, rather than in its original container.
- All medicines will be stored safely in the Medical Room. Children should know where their medicines are at all times and be able to access them immediately.
- Medicines and devices such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing meters and adrenaline pens should be always readily available to children. If a child requires an asthma inhaler it is crucial that there is an inhaler in The Trust at all times.
- During school trips, the first aid trained member of staff/member of staff in charge of first aid will carry all medical devices and medicines required.
- Staff administering medicines should do so in accordance with the prescriber's instructions. The Trust will keep a record of all medicines administered to individual children, stating what, how and how much was administered, when and by whom. Any side effects of the medication to be administered at The Trust should be noted. These records offer protection to staff and children and provide evidence that agreed procedures have been followed.

- When no longer required, medicines should be returned to the Parent/Carer to arrange for safe disposal. Sharps boxes should always be used for the disposal of needles and other sharps.

Unacceptable Practice

Although The Trust staff should use their discretion and judge each case on its merits with reference to the child's Individual Health Care Plan, it is not generally acceptable practice to:

- 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/Carers; 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
- penalise children for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical condition e.g. hospital appointments
- prevent pupils from drinking, eating or taking toilet or other breaks whenever they need to in order to manage their medical condition effectively
- require Parents/Carers, or otherwise make them feel obliged, to attend the The Trust to administer medication or provide medical support to their child, including with toileting issues, or
- prevent children from participating, or create unnecessary barriers to children participating in any aspect of The Trust life, including school trips.

Complaints

Should Parents/Carers or pupils be dissatisfied with the support provided they should discuss their concerns directly with The Trust. If for whatever reason this does not resolve the issue, they may make a formal complaint via the complaints procedure outlined in The Trust's Complaints Policy.

Please refer any complaints to the relevant campus.

Please note: Each Campus has their own procedures regarding administration of medication. Please ensure you complete any relevant forms.