



Supporting Children with Medical Conditions Policy

Policy Originator: SLT

Status: Statutory

Review Period: 3 years

Next Review: Autumn 2024

Frimley Church of England Junior School 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 April 2014 and updated in August 2017 – "Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions" under a statutory duty form section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014. The statutory duty came into force on 1st September 2014.

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.

In most circumstances the administration of medicines is the responsibility of the parents or carers and they should be administered at home. Medicines should only be administered at school when it would be detrimental to a child's health or school attendance not to do so.

Key roles and responsibilities

a) The AQC of Frimley Church of England Junior School is responsible for:

- Ensuring arrangements are in place to support pupils with medical conditions.
- Ensuring the policy is developed collaboratively across services, clearly identifies roles and responsibilities and is implemented effectively.
- 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.
- Ensuring the policy covers arrangements for pupils who are competent to manage their own health needs.
- 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.

- 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.
- Ensuring written records are kept of, any and all, medicines administered to pupils.
- Ensuring the policy sets out procedures in place for emergency situations.
- Ensuring the level of insurance in place reflects the level of risk.
- Handling complaints regarding this policy as outlined in the school's Complaints Policy.

b) The Headteacher, in liaison with the Inclusion Leader, is responsible for:

- Ensuring the policy is developed effectively with partner agencies and then making staff aware of this policy.
- The day-to-day implementation and management of the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy of Frimley Church of England Junior School.
- Liaising with healthcare professionals regarding the training required for staff.
- Identifying staff who need to be aware of a child's medical condition.
- Developing Individual Care Plans (ICPs).
- Ensuring a sufficient number of trained members of staff are available to implement the policy and deliver ICPs in normal, contingency and emergency situations.
- Continuous two-way liaison with school and/or medical professionals and school in the case of any child who has or develops an identified medical condition.
- Ensuring confidentiality and data protection.
- Assigning appropriate accommodation for medical treatment/care.
- Ensuring 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.

c) Staff members are responsible for:

- 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.
- Knowing where controlled drugs are stored and where the key is held.
- Completing relevant paperwork when administering medicines.
- Taking account of the needs of pupils with medical conditions in lessons.
- 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.
- Allowing inhalers, adrenalin pens (Epipens) and blood glucose testers to be held in an accessible location, following DfE guidance.

d) School and/or medical professionals are responsible for:

- Collaborating on developing an ICP in anticipation of a child with a medical condition starting school.
- 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.
- Supporting staff to implement an ICP and then participate in regular reviews of the ICP.
- Giving advice and liaison on training needs.
- Liaising locally with lead clinicians on appropriate support.
- Assisting the Inclusion Leader in identifying training needs and providers of training.

e) Parents and carers are responsible for:

- Keeping the school informed about any new medical condition or changes to their child/children's health.
- Participating in the development and regular reviews of their child's ICP.
- Completing a parental consent form to administer medicine or treatment before bringing medication into school.
- Providing the school with the medication their child requires, keeping it up to date and clearly labelled. This includes collecting leftover medicine. Should medicine not be collected in timely fashion it will be disposed of.
- Ensuring medication brought into school is clearly and correctly labelled and in the original packaging so as correct dosage can be administered.
- Carrying out actions assigned to them in the ICP with particular emphasis on, they or a nominated adult, being contactable at all times.

f) Pupils are responsible for:

- Providing information on how their medical condition affects them.
- Contributing to their ICP
- Arriving at the office at the scheduled time to receive their medication, when independent enough to do so.
- Complying with the ICP 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.

Training of staff

Newly appointed teachers, supply or agency staff and support staff will receive training on the 'Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions' Policy as part of their induction as necessary.

No staff member may administer prescription medicines or undertake any healthcare procedures without undergoing training specific to the condition and signed off as competent.

School will keep a record of medical conditions supported, training undertaken and a list of teachers qualified to undertake responsibilities under this policy.

There is no requirement for staff to undertake these responsibilities, unless administering medicines may be included in the contractual duties of some support staff. Consequently, to comply with this policy, settings must explore securing the services of:

- Volunteers from existing teaching or support staff
- Employees with specific contractual duties to undertake this work
- Other persons as agreed in accordance with this policy

Medical conditions register /list

Schools admissions forms should request information on pre-existing medical conditions. Parents must have an easy pathway to inform school at any point in the school year if a condition develops or is diagnosed. Consideration could be given to seeking consent from GPs to have input into the ICP and also to share information for recording attendance.

A medical conditions list or register should be kept, updated and reviewed regularly by the nominated member of staff. Each class should have an overview of the list for the pupils in their care, within easy access.

Supply staff and support staff should similarly have access on a need to know basis. Parents should be assured data sharing principles are adhered to.

For pupils on the medical conditions list key stage transition points meetings should take place in advance of transferring to enable parents, school and health professionals to prepare ICP and train staff if appropriate.

Individual Care Plans (ICPs)

Where necessary (Headteachers will make the final decision) an Individual Care Plan (ICP) will be developed in collaboration with the pupil, parents/carers, Inclusion Leader and medical professionals.

ICPs will be easily accessible to all relevant staff, including supply/agency staff, whilst preserving confidentiality. If consent is sought from parents a photo and instructions may be displayed.

ICPs will be reviewed at least annually or when a child's medical circumstances change, whichever is sooner.

Where a pupil has an Education, Health and Care Plan, the ICP will be linked to it or become part of it.

Where a child is returning from a period of hospital education or alternative provision or home tuition, collaboration between the LA /Alternative Provision provider and school is needed to ensure that the ICP identifies the support the child needs to reintegrate.

Transport arrangements

Where a pupil with an ICP is allocated school transport, a copy of the ICP will be copied to the Transport team and kept on the pupil record. The ICP must be passed to the current operator for use by the driver /escort and the Transport team will ensure that the information is supplied when a change of operator takes place.

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.

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.

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.

Prescribed medicines

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.

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.

No child will be given any prescription or non-prescription medicines without written parental consent except in exceptional circumstances, when the parent will be contacted first.

No child under 16 years of age will be given medication containing aspirin without a doctor's prescription.

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.

A maximum of four weeks' supply of the medication may be provided to the school at one time except in exceptional circumstances.

Medications will be stored either in the School Office or the class medical box. Schools should keep controlled drugs that have been prescribed for a pupil securely stored in a non-portable container and only named staff should have access. Controlled drugs should be easily accessible in an emergency.

Where possible pupils' medication (most commonly inhalers, antihistamines and epipens) should be kept in their class medical box. On some occasions pupils may have a supply of medication in their classroom and the school office.

Any medications left over at the end of the course will be returned to the child's parents.

Written records will be kept of any medication administered to children. When a child has a long term prescription on a daily basis, this record is a form filled in daily by the adults responsible for administering the medication. If a child is taking medication for a short term only, for example, a course of antibiotics, each time the medicine is administered the staff member responsible should sign and date the permission form (previously completed by the parent). These forms should be retained by the school for a period of 1 year.

Pupils will never be prevented from accessing their medication.

Frimley Church of England Junior School cannot be held responsible for side effects that occur when medication is taken correctly.

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 ICP which will include informing parents.

Emergencies

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.

If a pupil needs to be taken to hospital, a member of staff will remain with the child until their parents arrive. A copy of the Data Collection sheet will go with the member of staff for hospital use if needed.

Day trips, residential visits and sporting activities

Arrangements should always be attempted to be made and be flexible enough to ensure pupils with medical conditions can participate in school trips, residential stays, sports activities and not prevent them from doing so unless a clinician states it is not possible.

To comply with best practice, risk assessments should be 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 ICP requirements for the school day.

Avoiding unacceptable practice

The following behaviour is unacceptable at Frimley Church of England Junior School:

- Preventing children from easily accessing their inhalers and medication and administering their medication when and where necessary.
- Assuming that pupils with the same condition require the same treatment.
- Ignoring the views of the pupil and/or their parents or ignoring medical evidence or opinion.
- Sending pupils home frequently or preventing them from taking part in activities at school
- Sending the pupil to the medical room or school office alone or with an unsuitable escort if they become seriously ill.
- Penalising pupils with medical conditions for their attendance record where the absences relate to their condition.
- Creating barriers to children participating in school life, including school trips.
- Refusing to allow pupils to eat, drink or use the toilet when they need to in order to manage their condition.

Insurance

Teachers who undertake responsibilities within this policy will be assured by the Headteacher that they are covered by the LA/school's insurance.

Full written insurance policy documents are available to be viewed by members of staff who are providing support to pupils with medical conditions. The documents can be found here...

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-risk-protection-arrangement-rpa-for-schools#what-rpa-covers>

Complaints

All complaints should be raised with the school in the first instance.

The details of how to make a formal complaint can be found in the School Complaints Policy.

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 Frimley Church of England Junior School.

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