

Bicton C. E. Primary School and Nursery

Learning for a Lifetime



MEDICAL CONDITIONS POLICY SUPPORTING PUPILS WITH SPECIAL MEDICAL NEEDS (Including dietary needs)

DEFINITION

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

- (a) Short-term affecting their participation in school activities which they are on a course of medication.*
- (b) Long-term potentially limiting their access to education and requiring extra care and support (deemed **special medical needs**).*

RATIONALE

Local Authorities and schools have a responsibility for the health and safety of pupils in their care. The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 makes employers responsible for the health and safety of employees and anyone else on the premises. In the case of pupils with special medical needs, the responsibility of the employer is to make sure that safety measures cover the needs of all pupils at the school. This may mean making special arrangements for particular pupils who may be more at risk than their peers. Individual procedures may be required. The employer is responsible for making sure that relevant staff know about and are, if necessary, trained to provide any additional support these pupils may need.

The Children and Families Act 2014, places a duty on schools to make arrangements for children 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.**

The prime responsibility for a child's health lies with the parent who is responsible for the child's medication and who should supply the school with information. The school takes advice and guidance from Shropshire Council's "*Medical arrangements, guidance and procedures for Shropshire Schools*". However, teachers and other school staff in charge of pupils have a common law duty to act in loco parentis 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.

Aims

The school aims to:

- assist parents in providing medical care for their children;
- educate staff and children in respect of special medical needs;
- adopt and implement the LA policy of Medication in Schools;
- liaise as necessary with medical services in support of the individual pupil;
- ensure access to full education if possible;
- monitor and keep appropriate records.

Entitlement

The school accepts that pupils with medical needs should be assisted if at all possible and that they have a right to the full education available to other pupils.

The school believes that pupils with medical needs should be enabled to have full attendance and receive necessary proper care and support.

The school accepts all employees have rights in relation to supporting pupils with medical needs as follows:

- choose whether or not they are prepared to be involved;
- receive appropriate training;
- work to clear guidelines;
- have concerns about legal liability;
- bring to the attention of management any concern or matter relating to supporting pupils with medical needs.

Expectations

It is expected that:

- Parents will be encouraged to co-operate in training children to self-administer medication, if this is practicable, and that members of staff will only be asked to be involved if there is no alternative.
- Where parents have asked the school to administer the medication for their child, they must ask the pharmacist to supply any such medication to be dispensed in a separate container, containing only the quantity required for school use. The prescription and dosage regime should be typed or printed clearly on the outside. The name of the pharmacist should be visible. Any medications not presented properly will not be accepted by school staff. Pupils should not bring in their own medicine. This should be brought into school by the parent. NB We recognise that some children travel to school by bus/taxi and in these circumstances parents/guardians should make school aware that the child is bringing medicine with them, so that staff can receive it from the child as soon as they arrive at school. A *Parental Agreement for School to Administer Medicine* form is required to be completed for all medication; these forms are kept in the school office.


- Parents will be required to complete an asthma/anaphylaxis, medical, dietary or intimate care plan, depending on the child's requirements.
- The school will consider carefully their response to requests for the giving of medication and they will consider each request separately.
- A consent form regarding the administration of Calpol in school is given to all parents when their child joins the school. This is to request their permission to administer Calpol after 1pm, if their child feels unwell. This will be administered by a first aider / other member of staff and a slip will be sent home with the child to inform the parent of the time of administration and amount of Calpol given.
- It is parents' responsibility to ensure that all medication provided for administering in school has a use by date.
- Inhalers/Epi-pens and other prescribed medication should remain in school at all times and only be taken home at the end of the school year.
- The school will liaise with the School Health Service for advice about a pupil's special medical needs and will seek support from the relevant practitioners where necessary and in the interests of the pupil.
- Any medicines brought into school by the staff e.g. headache tablets, inhalers, etc. for personal use should be stored in an appropriate place and kept out of the reach of the pupils. Any staff medicine is the responsibility of the individual concerned and not the school.

Policy into Practice

There is a need for proper documentation at all stages when considering the issue of support for pupils with medical needs in school.

Policy reviewed March 2021

The Policy will be reviewed bi-annually

Signed  Head teacher