



## **HIGH MEADOW INFANT SCHOOL**

### **Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy**

#### **Policy Statement**

High Meadow Infant School is an inclusive community that welcomes and supports pupils with medical conditions. We understand that pupils can suffer from long term, short term, chronic and acute illnesses and will provide for all pupils without exception or discrimination. This includes both physical and mental health conditions.

High Meadow Infant School provides all pupils with any medical condition the same opportunities as others at school, enabling them to play a full and active role in school life, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential. We make sure that all staff understand their duty of care to children and young people in the event of an emergency and are confident in knowing what to do.

Our school understands that certain medical conditions are serious and potentially life threatening, particularly if poorly managed or misunderstood. We understand the importance of medication and care being taken as directed by healthcare professionals and parents. All pupils with medical conditions will have a Healthcare Plan (IHP) written as soon as possible after diagnosis and reviewed at least annually or more often if necessary. All staff understand the medical conditions that affect pupils at this school and where necessary receive training on the impact medical conditions can have on a pupil.

Our school ensures this policy is applied across the curriculum, including PE and Educational Visits.

#### **Policy Framework**

The policy framework describes the essential criteria for how the school can meet the needs of children and young people with long term and short term medical conditions and those suffering from unexpected illness or injury.

#### **1) This school is an inclusive community that supports and welcomes pupils with medical conditions**

- Our school is welcoming and supportive of pupils with medical conditions. It provides children with medical conditions with the same opportunities and access to activities (both school based and out of school) as other pupils. No child will be denied admission or prevented from taking up a place in this school because arrangements for their medical condition have not been made.

- Our school will listen to the views of pupils and parents.
- Pupils and parents feel confident in the care they receive from this school and the level of care that meets their needs.
- Our school will ensure all pupils joining at normal transition times will have arrangements in place to manage their medical condition by the beginning of that term. Any pupil joining the school mid-term will have arrangements in place within no longer than two weeks.
- Staff understand the medical conditions of pupils at this school and that they may be serious, adversely affect a child's quality of life and impact on their ability to learn.
- All staff understand their duty of care to children and young people and know what to do in the event of an emergency.
- The whole school and local health community understand and support the medical conditions policy.
- Our school understands that all children with the same medical condition will not have the same needs.
- The school recognises that duties in the Children and Families Act 2014 (England only) and the Equality Act (England, Wales and Scotland) relate to children with disability or medical conditions is anticipatory. This school understands that some children who have medical conditions may also have disabilities and / or special educational needs and this policy may be read in conjunction with the school's SEND policy, the SEND code of practice and the SEND Information Report 2014.

## **2) All staff understand and are trained in what to do in an emergency situation at school**

- All school staff, including temporary or supply staff are aware of the medical conditions at this school and understand their duty of care to pupils in an emergency.
- All staff receive training in what to do in an emergency and this is refreshed every three years.
- All staff are familiar with normal procedures for avoiding infection and follow basic hygiene procedures. Staff have access to protective clothing and suitable disposable equipment to safely deal with spillages of blood or other bodily fluids, including the changing of dressings.
- All children with a medical condition at this school have an individual Healthcare Plan (IHP), which explains what help they will need in an emergency. The IHP will accompany a pupil should they need to attend hospital. Parental permission will be sought and recorded in the IHP with emergency care settings. IHPs should be developed in the context of assessing and managing risks to the pupil's education, health and social wellbeing and to minimise disruption. IHPs should consider:
  - The medical condition, its trigger, signs, symptoms and treatment.
  - The pupil's resulting needs, including medication (its side-effects and storage) and other treatments, dose, time, facilities, equipment, testing, dietary requirements and environmental issues.
  - Specific support for the pupil's educational, social and emotional needs, for example how absences will be managed, requirements for extra time to complete work, rest periods or additional support including counselling.

- The level of support needed, including in emergencies. If a child is self-managing their own medication, this should be clearly stated with arrangements for monitoring.
- Who will provide this support, their training needs, expectations of their role and confirmation their proficiency to provide support for the pupil's medical needs from a healthcare professional.
- Who in school needs to be aware of the child's condition and the support required.
- Written permission from parents and the head teacher for medication to be administered.
- Separate arrangements or procedures required for school trips or other school activities outside the normal school timetable that will ensure the pupil can participate, e.g. risk assessments.
- Where confidentiality issues are raised by the parent or pupil, the designated individuals to be entrusted with information about the child's condition.
- What to do in emergency, including who to contact and contingency arrangements.

### **3) All staff understand and are trained in the school's general emergency procedures**

- All staff know what action to take in an emergency and receive updates at least yearly. Training needs will be identified and discussed as part of the school's appraisal process. Training is provided at least annually, and as required throughout the year for supporting pupils with medical needs.
- Any member of staff providing support to a pupil with medical needs will receive suitable training.
- If a pupil needs to attend a hospital, a member of staff (preferably known to the child) will stay with them until a parent or carer arrives. A member of staff may also accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance. A member of staff must not take a pupil to hospital in their own car.

### **4) Our school has clear guidance on providing care and support and administering medication at school.**

- Our school understands the importance of medication being taken and care received as detailed in the pupil's IHP.
- Our school will make sure that there are staff who have been trained to administer the medication and meet the care needs of an individual child. This school will ensure there are sufficient members of staff trained to cover any absences, staff turnover and other contingencies. The school's governing body has made sure that there is the appropriate level of insurance and liability cover in place.
- Children at this school will not administer their own medication, unless they have received appropriate training, and it is the wish of the pupil and their parent. This will be recorded on their IHP. A member of staff must be present to supervise and be prepared to intervene if necessary to ensure the child's health and safety are not compromised. Whilst pupils will be encouraged to keep themselves healthy, and self-care is promoted, this school recognises that some pupils' needs may be complex and some medical conditions can be fatal if not managed well.

- This school will make sure that a trained member of staff is available to accompany a pupil with a medical condition on an off-site educational visit and the needs of the pupil, associated risks and how these are managed will be included in the risk assessment for the visit.
- Parents at this school understand that they should let the school know immediately if their child's needs change and provide enough information to ensure their needs are met.

**5) This school has clear guidance on the storage of medication and equipment at school.**

- Our school makes sure that all staff understand what constitutes an emergency for an individual child and makes sure that emergency medication / equipment is readily available wherever the child is in the school and on off-site activities, and is not locked away. Children at this school know to ask any member of staff and that they may have immediate access to their medication when required. In this school medications are stored safely in the Grab Bag in the school office or the staffroom fridge if required to be stored at a controlled temperature.
- Our school will store medication that is in date and labelled in its original container. The exceptions to this are insulin and adrenalin (auto-injector), which although must still be in date, will generally be supplied in an injector pen or pump. Medication will only be accepted where it is in its original container, complete with dispensing label including the child's name and instructions for administering from a qualified healthcare professional.
- Our school disposes of needles and other sharps in line with local policies. Sharps boxes are held securely at school and will accompany a child on off-site visits. They are collected and disposed of in line with local authority procedures.

**6. This school has clear guidance about record keeping**

- Parents at our school are asked if their child has any medical conditions on the admissions form
- Our school uses an IHP to record the support an individual pupil needs around their medical condition. The IHP is developed with the pupil (where appropriate), parent, school staff, specialist nurse (where appropriate), and relevant healthcare services.
- Our school has a centralised register of IHPs, and an identified member of staff who has responsibility for this register.
- IHPs are reviewed regularly, at least every year or whenever the pupil's needs change.
- The pupil (where appropriate), parents, specialist nurse (where appropriate), and relevant healthcare services hold a copy of the IHP.
- This school makes sure that the pupil's confidentiality is protected.
- This school seeks permission from parents before sharing medical information with any other party.
- If appropriate, this school meets with the pupil (where appropriate), parent, specialist nurse (where appropriate), and relevant healthcare services prior to any day visit to discuss and make a plan for any extra care requirements that may be needed. This is recorded on the pupil's IHP which will accompany them on the visit.
- Our school keeps an accurate record of all medication administered, including the dose, time, date and supervising staff.

- Our school makes sure that all staff providing support to a pupil have received suitable training and ongoing support, to make sure they have the confidence to provide the necessary support and that they fulfil the requirements set out in the pupil's IHP. This should be provided by the specialist nurse / school nurse / other suitably qualified healthcare professional and / or parent. The specialist nurse / school nurse / other suitable qualified healthcare professional will confirm their competence, and this school keeps an up-to-date record of training undertaken and by whom.

**7. This school ensure that the whole school environment is inclusive and favourable to pupils with medical conditions. This includes the physical environment, as well as social, sporting and educational activities.**

- Our school is committed to providing a physical environment accessible to pupils with medical conditions. This school is also committed to an accessible environment for out of school activities.
- Our school makes sure the needs of pupils with medical conditions are adequately considered to ensure their involvement in structured and unstructured activities, including extended school activities.
- All staff are aware of the potential social problems that pupils with medical conditions may experience and use this knowledge, alongside the school's anti-bullying policy, to help prevent and deal with any problems. They use opportunities such as PSHE and science lessons to raise awareness of medical conditions to help promote a positive environment.
- Our school understands the importance of all pupils taking part in physical activity and that all relevant staff make appropriate adjustments to physical activity sessions to make sure they are accessible to all pupils. This includes out of school clubs etc.
- Our school understands that all relevant staff are aware that pupils should not be forced to take part in activities if they are unwell. They should also be aware of pupils who have been advised to avoid / take special precautions during activity, and the potential triggers for a pupil's medical condition when exercising and how to minimise these.
- Our school makes sure that pupils have the appropriate medication / equipment / food available during physical activity.
- This school makes sure that pupils with medical conditions can participate fully in all aspects of the curriculum and enjoy the same opportunities at school as any other child, and that appropriate adjustments and extra support are provided.
- All staff understand that frequent absences, or symptoms, such as limited concentration and frequent tiredness, may be due to a pupil's medical condition.
- Our school will not penalise pupils for their attendance if their absence relates to their medical condition. Following absence, reintegration back into school will be properly supported so pupils with medical conditions fully engage with learning and do not fall behind when they are unable to attend. Short term absences, including those for medical appointments are effectively managed as per the school's attendance policy.

- Our school will refer pupils with medical conditions who are finding it difficult to keep up educationally to the SENCo who will liaise with the pupil (where appropriate), parent and the pupil's healthcare professional.
- Pupils at this school learn what to do in an emergency.
- Our school makes sure that a risk assessment is carried out before any out of school educational visit. The needs of pupils with medical conditions are considered during this process and plans are put in place for any additional medication, equipment or support that may be required.
- Our school is aware of the common triggers that can make common medical conditions worse or can bring on an emergency. This school is actively working towards reducing or eliminating these health and safety risks.
- Our school is committed to identifying and reducing triggers both at school and the triggers for pupils on out of school visits.
- School staff are given training and written information on medical conditions which includes avoiding / reducing exposure to common triggers. It has a list of the triggers for pupils with medical conditions at this school.
- The IHP details an individual pupil's triggers and details how to make sure the pupil remains safe during the whole school day and on out of school activities. Risk assessments are carried out on all out of school activities, taking into account the needs of pupils with medical conditions.
- The school reviews all medical emergencies and incidents to see how they could be avoided, and changes school policy according to these reviews.

**9. Each member of the school and health community knows their roles and responsibilities in maintaining and implementing an effective medical conditions policy.**

- This school works in partnership with all relevant parties including the pupil (where appropriate), parent, governing body, staff, healthcare professionals to ensure that the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully.
- The governing body should ensure parents are aware of the school's complaints policy and procedures should they be dissatisfied with the support provided to their child.

**10. The medical conditions policy is regularly reviewed, evaluated and updated. Updates are produced every year.**

- In evaluating this policy, this school seeks feedback from stakeholders including pupils, parents, school healthcare professionals, specialist nurses and other relevant healthcare professionals, school staff, local emergency care services and the governors. The views of pupils with medical conditions are central to the evaluation process.

Signed by SEN Governor: Date: *Sue Francis June 2017*

Signed by Chair of Governors: Date: *Jonathan Smith June 2017*

Date for Review: *June 2018*

## Appendix: The Process for Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions

1.

•Parent or healthcare professional informs school that child has medical condition or is due to return from long-term absence, or that needs have changed.

2.

•Head teacher co-ordinates meeting to discuss child's medical needs and identifies members of school staff who will provide support to the pupil.

3.

•Meeting held to discuss and agree on the need for IHP to include key school staff, child, parent and relevant healthcare professionals and other medical/health clinician as appropriate (or to consider evidence provided by them).

4.

•Develop IHP in partnership. Agree who leads on writing it. Input from healthcare professionals must be provided.

5.

•School staff training needs identified.

6.

•Healthcare professional commissions and/or delivers training.  
•Staff signed off as competent - review date agreed.

7.

•IHP implemented and circulated to all relevant staff.

8.

•IHP reviewed annually or when conditions changes. Parent/carer or healthcare professional to initiate.