



SAINT JOHN'S

# Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions

Designated Member of Staff	Head Teacher
Committee with responsibility	Resources
Date of Issue	Autumn 2021
Frequency of Review	Annual

Issue Number	Issue Date	Summary of Changes
1	December 2021	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3</a>
2	July 2022	Reviewed and ratified at T6 FGB meeting
3	November 2022	Reference to supporting pupils with health conditions who cannot attend school
4	February 2023	Reviewed and ratified by governors in T3 FGB
5	January 2024	A few sentence changes - ratified by governors in T3 FGB

## **Introduction and background**

This policy is written to underpin our school ethos to ensure that we all flourish at Saint John's Church of England Primary School. Saint John's aims to support all children with health conditions. The Supporting Children with Health Conditions who cannot attend school Policy focuses on those with health conditions who are not in school. This policy focuses on those with medical needs who attend school.

## **Definition**

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

- (a) Short-term affecting their participation in school activities for 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**

LAs 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 classmates. 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, from September 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. 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.

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.

## **Aims**

The school aims to:

- assist parents/carers in providing medical care for their children;
- educate staff and children in respect of special medical needs;
- arrange training for volunteer staff to support individual pupils;
- 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:

- they can choose whether or not they are prepared to be involved;
- they can receive appropriate training;
- they can work to clear guidelines;
- they can raise concerns about legal liability;
- they can bring to the attention of management any concern or matter relating to supporting pupils with medical needs.
- they can have responsibility for administering medication when 'confident and competent'.

### **Expectations**

It is expected that:

- parents/carers 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/carers 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 school will only administer medicines in which the dosage is required four times a day. 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.
- employees will consider carefully their response to requests to assist with the giving of medication or supervision of self-medication and that they will consider each request separately.
- the school will liaise with the 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 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.

For children who have long term medical needs, a comprehensive Health Plan will form the basis of all actions.

### **Illness guidelines for parents/carers**

- Children who are unwell should not be brought to school. If parents/carers bring children who are unwell, they will be asked to take them home again. We therefore reserve the right to refuse entry for any child deemed unwell.
- Parents/carers who are unable to care for their own child when they are unwell must have adequate alternative arrangements in place.
- Parents/carers must notify staff if their child has been unwell at the weekend or in the night and if they have been given any medicine such as Calpol/Nurofen prior to coming to school/pre-school.
- Any child who has had vomiting and or diarrhoea must not return to school until **at least 48 hours** have elapsed from the last bout of vomiting and or diarrhoea and they are eating normally.

### **Children who become ill whilst in our care**

- When a child becomes ill at school, every effort will be made to contact the parents/carer, who will be requested to collect their child as soon as possible or send a known adult to collect the child on their behalf.
- If a child has a temperature (feels hot to touch on their forehead, back or tummy, feels sweaty or clammy and has red cheeks), they are given water and kept cool. A parent/carer is contacted to request to collect the child.

- In extreme cases of emergency, the child should be taken to the nearest hospital and the parent/carer informed.
- If a child has a case of vomiting and/or diarrhea, a parent/ carer must come and collect the child and the child must not return until **at least 48 hours** have elapsed from the last bout of vomiting and or diarrhoea and they are eating normally.

#### **Reporting notifiable diseases**

- If a child or adult is diagnosed as suffering from a notifiable disease under the Health Protection Regulations 2010, the GP should report this to the Health Protection Agency.
- When the school becomes aware, or is formally informed of the notifiable disease, the head teacher informs the Local Authority and the SHE (Safety, Health and Environment Team), following procedures, and acts on any advice given by the Health Protection Agency.

#### **Safeguarding**

This policy should be read alongside the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding policy.