

Alfreton Park School



Supporting pupils with medical needs 2023-2024

Date	Review Date	Headteacher's Signature
November 2023	November 2024	J O'Donnell

Chair of Governors: John Glasby
Headteacher: Josie O'Donnell
Deputy Headteacher: Emma Durham

INTRODUCTION & RATIONALE

At Alfreton Park School, we understand that medical conditions impact on children's ability to learn, their confidence, self-esteem and ability to care for themselves.

We recognise that long term absences due to health problems affect children's educational attainment, impact on their ability to integrate with their peers and this has an effect on their general wellbeing and emotional health. Equally, we know that short term and frequent absences, including those for appointments connected with a pupil's medical condition, also need to be effectively managed and appropriate support put in place to limit the impact on the child's educational attainment and emotional and general wellbeing.

In addition to the educational impacts, there are social and emotional implications associated with medical conditions. Children may be self-conscious about their condition and some may be bullied or develop emotional disorders such as anxiety or depression connected with their medical condition.

We also know that parents and carers of children with medical conditions are often concerned that their child's health may deteriorate when they attend school. This may be due to worries about children with conditions that affect their immune system contracting infections and viruses as a result of being around other children leading to absence or deterioration in their condition. It may also be because children with complex medical conditions may require on-going support, medication or care while at school to help them manage their condition and keep them well. Other children may require emergency care if their condition unpredictably or rapidly deteriorates while they are in school. We therefore recognise that it is vital that parents have confidence in the school's ability to provide effective support for their child and that their child feels safe.

This policy therefore sets out the arrangements we have at Alfreton Park School to ensure all pupils at the school with medical conditions are properly supported and have full access to school life and all the educational and wider opportunities we offer.

AIMS

- To ensure all children with medical conditions, in terms of physical and mental health are properly supported in school so they can play a full and active role in school life, remain healthy and achieve the highest standards
- To focus on the needs of individual children with medical conditions so they can access and enjoy the same opportunities at school as other children
- To ensure parents and carers feel confident that the school will provide effective support for their child's medical condition and that all pupils feel safe
- To seek, listen to and act appropriately on the views of parents, carers and pupils with medical conditions
- To establish effective relationships with appropriate health services in order to seek and fully consider any advice they offer in terms of supporting children with medical conditions
- To ensure staff are properly trained to provide the support that pupils in their care need
- To meet the requirements of the statutory guidance, 'Supporting pupils at school with medical needs' (April 2014)

RELATED POLICIES

SEN Policy and Local Offer

Behaviour Policy

Anti-Bullying Policy

Child Protection Policy

Attendance Policy

PSHE/RSHE Policy

The Administration of Medicines and Associated Complex Health Procedures for Children advice & Guidance for Children's Services in Derbyshire.

Medicines Policy

Health & Safety Policy

IMPLEMENTATION

The Headteacher is the person with overall responsibility for implementing this policy.

The role will be fulfilled by working closely with the school nurse and staff with responsibility for administering first aid.

In the event of absence, the school has arrangements in place for the administration of medication or treatment, e.g., a number of staff are familiar with the procedures for administering medications required on a daily/frequent basis, at least three members of staff are trained to use/oversee any specialist equipment.

Where children have conditions that may require emergency care (e.g., anaphylaxis), all available staff are trained in administering the appropriate medication and a care plan is available at all times.

Care plans are found in the nurses' room and are made available to supply staff covering classes where children have medical conditions that may require emergency treatment.

Overviews of medical needs can also be found on the school's data management system; Integris.

Pupils with medical conditions are clearly identified on 'risk/analysis forms' for educational out of school activities and residential visits and individualised risk assessments are completed and signed by the class teacher and a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Individual healthcare plans are reviewed annually with parents.

To ensure medication for conditions requiring emergency treatment is always 'in date' the school office /members of staff who administer medication regularly check expiry dates and contact parents/carers before medication needs to be renewed.

Roles & Responsibilities

Collaborative Working

Supporting a child with a medical condition in school hours is not the sole responsibility of one person. Collaborative working between parents/carers, medical healthcare professionals and school is essential for this policy to be effective enabling all needs of pupils with medical conditions to be met effectively.

Governing Body

The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that this policy has been developed and implemented so to enable all pupils with medical conditions to participate fully in all aspects of school life. The Governing Body is also responsible for ensuring that sufficient staff have received suitable training and are competent before taking responsibility for supporting pupils with specific medical conditions

Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring all staff are aware of this policy and to understand their role in its implementation. The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring all staff are aware of individual children's conditions and that staff are trained in order to implement the policy, together with dealing with emergency situations. The Headteacher is also responsible for contacting the school nurse service when medical conditions require specific support at school.

School Staff

Any member of school staff may be asked to provide support to pupils with medical conditions, including the administering of medicines. Although administration of medicines is not part of teachers' professional duties, they should take into account the needs of pupils with medical conditions that they teach. School staff supporting children with medical needs receive sufficient and suitable training and achieve the necessary level of competency before they take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions. Teachers who have pupils with medical needs in their class should understand the nature of the condition and when and where, the pupil may need extra attention. They should be aware of the likelihood of an emergency arising and what action to take if one occurs. If staff are to administer medication, they may only do so if they have had appropriate training.

School Nurse

The nurse employed by school is responsible for gathering information and developing a care plan for every pupil. They are responsible to sharing and updating this information. The nurse will ensure that updated information is shared with the senior leaders and class staff.

School nurses can liaise with lead clinicians locally on appropriate support for the child and associated staff training needs.

Other Health Professionals

The school will receive support, information and advice as necessary from the following in conjunction with meeting the needs of pupils with medical needs:

- The local health authority – including a range of therapists.
- The school health service
- The school nurse
- The general practitioner (with the consent of the child's parents)
- The community paediatrician

Pupils

Pupils with medical conditions will often be best placed to provide information about how their condition affects them, where possible. They should be fully involved in discussions about their medical support needs and contribute as much as possible to the development of and comply with, their individual healthcare plan if deemed appropriate.

Child's role in managing their own medical needs

Following discussions with parents, children who are competent should be encouraged to take responsibility for managing their own medical procedures. This should be reflected in their care plan. Whenever possible, children should be encouraged to access their medication for self-medication quickly and easily. These children will require some level of supervision. If this is not appropriate, relevant staff should help to administer medicines and manage procedures further.

Parents/Carers

Parents/carers should provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs. They may in some cases be the first to notify the school that their child has a medical condition. Parents are key partners and should be involved in the development and review of their child's individual healthcare plan. They should carry out any action they have agreed to, as part of its implementation, e.g., Provide medicines and equipment and ensure they or another nominated adult are contactable at all times.

Parent are asked to give written permission for the nurse to access pupils' confidential medical records to ensure that up to date information can be sort.

Local Authorities

Under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004, the commissioners of school nurses have a duty to promote co-operation between the Governing Body, clinical commissioning groups and NHS England, with a view to improving the well-being of children in relation to their physical and mental health and their education. Local authorities are responsible for providing support, advice and guidance, including suitable training for school staff to ensure that the support specified within individual healthcare plans can be delivered effectively. Local authorities should work with schools to support pupils with medical conditions to attend full time. Where pupils would not receive a suitable education in a school setting because of their health needs, the local authority has a duty to make other arrangements.

Staff Training

All staff providing support to pupils with medical needs will have received appropriate training provided by either the school nurse or special nurse practitioners. Any further requirements recommended in the development/review of individual healthcare plans will be acted on as soon as possible and advice regarding type of level of training required recommended by the healthcare professional/Inclusion Services will be followed and kept up to date.