

Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy

2023/2024

PARTNERSHIPS | OPPORTUNITY | INTEGRITY | EQUITY | EXCELLENCE | PEOPLE-CENTRED

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Contents

1.	Definition of “medical condition”	3
2.	Policy implementation	3
3.	Notification that a student has a medical condition.....	3
4.	Procedure following notification that a student has a medical condition	3
5.	Individual Healthcare Plans (IHP).....	4
6.	Reviewing Individual Healthcare Plans (IHP)	5
7.	Staff training.....	5
8.	Administering medication	5
9.	Controlled Drugs.....	6
10.	Pupils managing her own needs.....	6
11.	Unacceptable practice.....	6
12.	Complaints.....	6
13.	Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans	6

As a proprietor of one or more academies, the Trust has a legal duty to make arrangements for supporting students at the academy with medical conditions. The board of the Trust has delegated this responsibility to the academy.

The academy has adopted this policy to set out the arrangements it has put in place for its students with medical conditions.

Overriding Principles

Children and young people with medical conditions are entitled to a full education. The academy is committed to ensuring that students with medical conditions are properly supported in school so that they can play a full and active role in school life, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential. We want all students, as far as possible, to access and enjoy the same opportunities at school as any other child. This will include actively supporting students with medical conditions to participate in school trips/visits and or in sporting activities.

1. Definition of “medical condition”

For the purposes of this policy, a medical condition is any illness or disability which a student has. It can be:

- physical or mental
- a single episode or recurrent
- short-term or long-term
- relatively straightforward (e.g. the student can manage the condition themselves without support or monitoring) or complex (requiring on-going support, medicines or care whilst at school to help the student manage their condition and keep them well)
- involving medication or medical equipment
- affecting participation in school activities or limiting access to education

Medical conditions may change over time, in ways that cannot always be predicted.

2. Policy implementation

The person with overall responsibility for the successful administering and implementation of this policy is the Headteacher.

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for ensuring:

- that sufficient staff are suitably trained to meet the known medical conditions of students at the academy
- all relevant staff are made aware of the student's medical condition and supply teachers are properly briefed
- cover arrangements are in place to cover staff absences/turnover to ensure that someone is always available and on site
- risk assessments for school visits, holidays and other school activities outside of the normal timetable are completed
- individual healthcare plans are prepared where appropriate and monitored

3. Notification that a student has a medical condition

Ordinarily, the student's parent/carer will notify the academy that their child has a medical condition. Parents/carers should ideally provide this information in writing addressed to the Headteacher. However, they may sometimes pass this information on to a class teacher or another member of staff. Any staff member receiving notification that a student has a medical condition should notify the Headteacher as soon as practicable.

A student themselves may disclose that they have a medical condition. The staff member to whom the disclosure is made should notify the Headteacher as soon as practicable.

Notification may also be received direct from the student's healthcare provider or from a school from which a child may be joining the academy. The academy may also instigate the procedure themselves where the student is returning to the academy after a long-term absence.

4. Procedure following notification that a student has a medical condition

Upon entry to school a student's parents/carers will be contacted by the Headteacher, or someone designated by them, as soon as practicable to discuss what, if any, arrangements need to be put into place to support the student and their medical condition. Unless the medical condition is short-term and relatively straightforward (e.g. the student can manage the condition themselves without any support or monitoring), a meeting will normally be held to:

- discuss the student's medical support needs
- identify a member of school staff who will provide support to the student where appropriate

- determine whether an individual healthcare plan (IHP) is needed and, if so, what information it should contain

Where possible, the student will be enabled and encouraged to attend the meeting and speak on his/her own behalf, taking into account the student's age and understanding. Where this is not appropriate, the student will be given the opportunity to feed in his/ her views by other means, such as setting their views out in writing.

The healthcare professional(s) with responsibility for the student may be invited to the meeting or be asked to prepare written evidence about the student's medical condition for consideration. Where possible, their advice will be sought on the need for, and the contents of, an IHP.

In cases where a student's medical condition is unclear, or where there is a difference of opinion, the Headteacher will exercise his/ her professional judgement based on the available evidence to determine whether an IHP is needed and/or what support to provide.

For children joining the academy at the start of the school year any support arrangements will be made in time for the start of the school term where possible. In other cases, such as a new diagnosis or a child moving to the academy mid-term, every effort will be made to ensure that any support arrangements are put in place within two weeks.

In line with our safeguarding duties, the academy will ensure that student's health is not put at unnecessary risk from, for example, infectious diseases. The academy will not accept a student into the school at times where it will be detrimental to the health of that child or others.

5. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHP)

Where it is decided that an IHP should be developed for the student, this shall be developed in partnership between the academy, the student's parents/carers, the student and the relevant healthcare professional(s) who can best advise on the particular needs of the student. This may include the school nursing service. The local authority will also be asked to contribute where the student accesses home-to-school transport to ensure that the authority's own transport healthcare plans are consistent with the IHP.

The aim of the IHP is to capture the steps which the academy needs to take to help the student manage their condition and overcome any potential barriers to getting the most from their education. It will be developed with the student's best interests in mind. In preparing the IHP the academy will need to assess and manage the risk to the student's education, health and social well-being and minimise disruption.

IHP's may include:

- details of the medical condition, its triggers, signs, symptoms and treatments
- the student's resulting needs, including medication (dose, side-effects and storage) and other treatments, time, facilities, equipment, testing, access to food and drink where this is used to manage their condition, dietary requirements and environmental issues e.g. crowded corridors or travel time between lessons
- specific support for the student's educational, social and emotional needs – for example, how absences will be managed, requirements for extra time to complete exams, use of rest periods or additional support in catching up with lessons or counselling sessions
- the level of support needed (some children will be able to take responsibility for their own health needs), including in emergencies; if a student is self-managing their medication, this will be clearly stated with appropriate arrangements for monitoring
- who will provide this support, their training needs, expectations of their role and confirmation of proficiency to provide support for the student's medical condition from a healthcare professional and cover arrangements for when they are unavailable
- who in the academy needs to be aware of the student's condition and the support required
- arrangements for written permission from parents/carers and the Headteacher for medication to be administered by a member of staff, or self-administered by the student during school hours
- separate arrangements or procedures required for school trips or other school activities outside of the normal school timetable that will ensure the student can participate, e.g. risk assessments
- where confidentiality issues are raised by the parent/student, the designated individuals to be entrusted with information about the student's condition
- what to do in an emergency, including whom to contact, and contingency arrangements; some children may have an emergency healthcare plan prepared by their lead clinician that could be used to inform development of their IHP

The IHP will also clearly define what constitutes an emergency and explain what to do, including ensuring that all relevant staff are aware of emergency symptoms and procedures. Other students in the academy should know what to do in general terms, such as informing a teacher immediately if they think help is needed. If a student (regardless of whether they have an IHP) needs to be taken to hospital, staff will stay with the student until the parent/carer arrives, or accompany a student taken to hospital by ambulance.

Except in exceptional circumstances, or where the healthcare provider deems that they are better placed to do so, the academy will take the lead in writing the plan and ensuring that it is finalised and implemented.

Where a student is returning to the academy following a period of hospital education or alternative provision (including home tuition), the

academy will work with the local authority and education provider to ensure that the IHP identifies the support the student will need to reintegrate effectively.

Where the student has a special educational need identified in an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), the IHP will be linked to or become part of that EHCP.

6. Reviewing Individual Healthcare Plans (IHP)

Every IHP shall be reviewed at least annually. The Headteacher (or someone designated by them) shall, as soon as practicable, contact the student's parents/carers and the relevant healthcare provider to ascertain whether the current IHP is still needed or needs to be changed. If the academy receives notification that the student's needs have changed, a review of the IHP will be undertaken as soon as practicable.

Where practicable, staff who provide support to the student with the medical condition shall be included in any meetings where the student's condition is discussed.

7. Staff training

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- ensuring that all staff (including new staff) are aware of this policy for supporting students with medical conditions and understand their role in its implementation
- working with relevant healthcare professionals and other external agencies to identify staff training requirements and commission training required
- ensuring that there are sufficient numbers of trained staff available to implement the policy and deliver against all IHPs, including in contingency and emergency situations

In addition, all members of school staff will know what to do and respond accordingly when they become aware that a student with a medical condition needs help.

The academy has in place appropriate levels of insurance regarding staff providing support to students with medical conditions, including the administration of medication. Copies of the academy's insurance policies can be made accessible to staff as required.

8. Administering medication

No student will be given any medication or access to a medical device without confirmation that this has been prescribed by the student's GP or other medical professional.

Written permission from parents/carers and the Headteacher is required for prescription or non-prescription medication to be administered by a member of staff or self-administered by the student during school hours. Medicines will only be administered at the academy when it would be detrimental to a student's health or school attendance not to do so. Where clinically possible, medicines should be administered in dose frequencies which enable them to be taken outside of school hours.

If a student requires medicines or medical devices, such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing meters or adrenaline pens, in school it is vital that the parent/carer advises the academy accordingly, so that the process for storing and administering medication can be properly discussed.

The academy will only accept medicines that are in-date, labelled, provided in the original container and include instructions for administration, dosage and storage. The exception to this is insulin which must still be in date, but will generally be available inside an insulin pen or a pump, rather than its original container.

The medication must be accompanied by a complete written instruction form signed by the student's parent/carer. The academy will not make changes to dosages labelled on the medicine or device on parental instructions.

The student and staff supporting the student with their medical condition should know where their medicines are at all times and be able to access them when needed. The most appropriate method for storing medicines and medical devices will be discussed with the student's parent/carer but the academy will ultimately decide the approach to be taken.

Wherever possible, students will be allowed to carry their own medicines and relevant devices or be able to access their medicines for self-medication quickly and easily. Where it is appropriate to do so, students will be encouraged to administer their own medication, under staff supervision if necessary. Staff administering medication should do so in accordance with the labelled instructions. Staff who volunteer to assist in the administration of medication will receive appropriate training and guidance before administering medication.

The academy will keep a record of all medicines administered to individual students, stating what, how and how much was administered, when and by whom. Any side effects of the medication will be noted.

If a student refuses to take their medication, staff will not force them to do so, and will inform the parent/carer of the refusal as a matter of urgency. If a refusal to take medicines results in an emergency, the school's emergency procedures will be followed.

It is the parent/carers' responsibility to renew the medication when supplies are running low and to ensure that the medication supplied is within its expiry date.

It is the responsibility of parents/carers to notify the academy in writing if the student's need for medication has ceased. When no longer required, medicines will be returned to the parent/carer to arrange for safe disposal. Sharps boxes should always be used for the disposal of needles.

9. Controlled drugs

Controlled drugs are prescription medicines that are controlled under the [Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001](#) and subsequent amendments, such as morphine or methadone.

A pupil who has been prescribed a controlled drug may have it in their possession if they are competent to do so, but they must not pass it to another pupil to use. All other controlled drugs are kept in a secure cupboard in the school office and only named staff have access.

Controlled drugs will be easily accessible in an emergency and a record of any doses used and the amount held will be kept.

10. Pupils managing their own needs

Pupils who are competent will be encouraged to take responsibility for managing their own medicines and procedures. This will be discussed with parents and it will be reflected in their IHPs.

Pupils will be allowed to carry their own medicines and relevant devices wherever possible. Staff will not force a pupil to take a medicine or carry out a necessary procedure if they refuse, but will follow the procedure agreed in the IHP and inform parents so that an alternative option can be considered, if necessary.

11. Unacceptable practice

Although the Headteacher and other school staff should use their discretion and judge each case on its merits with reference to the student's IHP, it will not be generally acceptable practice to:

- prevent children from easily accessing their inhalers and medication and administering their medication when and where necessary
- assume that every student with the same condition requires the same treatment
- ignore the views of the student or their parents/carers or ignore medical evidence or opinion (although this may be challenged)
- send children with medical conditions home frequently or prevent them from staying for normal school activities, including lunch, unless this is specified in their IHP
- if the student becomes ill, send them to the school office or medical room unaccompanied or with someone unsuitable
- penalise children for their attendance record if their absences are related to their medical condition e.g. hospital appointments
- prevent students from drinking, eating, or taking toilet or other breaks whenever they need to in order to manage their medical condition effectively
- require parents/carers, or otherwise make them feel obliged, to attend school to administer medication or provide medical support to their child, including with toileting issues; no parent/carer should have to give up working because the academy is failing to support their child's medical needs; or
- prevent children from participating, or create unnecessary barriers to children participating in any aspect of school life, including school trips, e.g. by requiring parents/carers to accompany the child

12. Complaints

Complaints regarding this policy or the support provided to students with medical conditions should be raised under the academy's usual complaints procedure.

13. Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans

PERSONAL EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLANS (PEEP) - A PEEP will be written for any person with a physical disability and reviewed annually, in order to manage a safe exit from the building. These are always individual and only prepared for specific individuals. A copy is to be kept centrally and be available at all times. The Head of Year, Tutor and Key staff who support pupils with physical disabilities will also hold a copy.