



## Freegrounds Junior School Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy

Date of last review: Autumn 2019

Date of next review: Autumn 2021

Date approved: December 2019

### **Purpose**

Section 100 of The Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on the governing body of this school, to make arrangements for supporting children at their premise with medical conditions. The Department of Education have produced statutory guidance 'Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions' and we will have regard to this guidance when meeting this requirement.

We will endeavour to ensure that children with medical conditions are properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. The aim is to ensure that all children with medical conditions, in terms of both their physical and mental health, 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.

It is our policy to ensure that all medical information will be treated confidentially by the Headteacher and staff. All administration of medicines is arranged and managed in accordance with the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions document. All staff have a duty of care to follow and co-operate with the requirements of this policy.

Where children have a disability, the requirement of the Equality Act 2010 will apply.

Where children have an identified special need, the SEN Code of Practice will also apply.

We recognise that medical conditions may impact social and emotional development as well as having educational implications.

### **Relationship to other policies**

This policy should be followed in conjunction with the following documents:

- DfE Statutory Guidance 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions' December 2015
- Freegrounds Junior School Complaints Policy
- Special Educational Needs & Disability Policy

## **Roles and responsibilities of the Headteacher and Governing Body**

The **governing body**, with advice from the headteacher, will ensure:

- the development, implementation and review of a policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions in school
- appropriate arrangements are in place to support pupils with medical conditions in school
- sufficient staff have received suitable training and are competent before they take on the responsibility to support children with medical conditions
- pupils with medical conditions are supported to enable the fullest participation possible in all aspects of school life
- any members of school staff who provide support to pupils with medical conditions are able to access information and other teaching support materials as needed.

The **headteacher** will ensure:

- the school's policy is effectively implemented
- all staff are aware of the policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions and understand their role in its implementation
- all staff who need to know are aware of the child's condition
- sufficient trained members of staff are available to implement the policy and deliver against all individual healthcare plans, including in contingency and emergency situations
- individual healthcare plans are developed and implemented
- school staff are appropriately insured and are aware that they are insured to support pupils in this way
- the school nursing service is contacted in the case of any child who has a medical condition that may require support in school but who has not yet been brought to the attention of the school nurse.

**Teachers and Support Staff** may be asked to provide support to pupils with medical conditions, including the administration of medicines, although they cannot be required to do so.

They will:

- undergo sufficient training and achieve the necessary level of competency before taking on responsibility to support children with medical conditions
- be aware of what to do and respond accordingly when they become aware that a pupil with a medical condition needs help.

**The School Link Nurse** will:

- notify the school when a child has been identified as having a medical condition which will require support in school
- support staff in implementing a child's individual healthcare plan and provide advice and liaison, for example on training.

## **Local Arrangements**

### **Identifying children with health conditions**

**Statutory Requirement: The Governing body will ensure that the policy sets out the procedures to be followed whenever a school is notified that a pupil has a medical condition.**

We will aim to identify children with medical conditions on entry to the school by working in partnership with parents/carers to complete an individual healthcare plan.

Where a formal diagnosis is awaited or is unclear, we will plan to implement arrangements to support the child, based on the current evidence available for their condition. We will ensure that every effort is made to involve some formal medical evidence and consultation with the parents/carers.

### **Individual healthcare plans**

**Statutory Requirement: The Governing body will ensure that the school's policy covers the role of individual healthcare plans, and who is responsible for their development in supporting children at school with medical conditions.**

We recognise that Individual Healthcare Plans are recommended in particular where conditions fluctuate or where there is a high risk that emergency intervention will be needed, and are likely to be helpful in the majority of other cases, especially where medical conditions are long term and complex. However, not all children will require one. The school, healthcare professional and parents/carers will agree based on evidence when a healthcare plan would be inappropriate or disproportionate.

Where children require an individual healthcare plan it will be the responsibility the Headteacher and trained school medical staff to work with parents/carers and relevant healthcare professionals to write the plan.

A healthcare plan (and its review) may be initiated in consultation with the parents/carers, by a member of school staff or by a healthcare professional involved in providing care to the child. They will work in partnership with the parents/carers and a relevant healthcare professional eg. school, specialist or children's community nurse, who can best advise on the particular conditions of the child to draw up and/or review the plan. Where a child has a special educational need identified in a statement or Educational Health Care (EHC) plan, the individual healthcare plan will be linked to or become part of that statement or EHC plan.

We may also refer to the flowchart contained within the document 'Process for identifying children with a health condition' for identifying and agreeing the support a child conditions and then developing the individual healthcare plan (See appendix 1).

If a child is returning following a period of hospital education or alternative provision (including home tuition), we will work with Hampshire County Council and education provider to ensure that the individual healthcare plan identifies the support the child will need to reintegrate effectively.

**Statutory Requirement: The governing body should ensure that all plans are reviewed at least annually or earlier if evidence is presented that the child's conditions have changed. Plans should be developed with the child's best interests in mind and ensure that the school assesses and manages the risks to the child's education, health and social well-being and minimise disruption.**

Each child's healthcare plan will be dated and recorded on a register with a review date stating the length of the plan which will never exceed one year. The plans will be reviewed in line with the stated timescale.

**Statutory Requirement: When deciding what information should be recorded on individual healthcare plans, the governing body and Headteacher should consider the following:**

- the medical condition, its triggers, signs, symptoms and treatments;
- the pupil's resulting conditions, 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 eg crowded corridors;
- specific support for the pupil's educational, social and emotional conditions – for example, how absences will be managed, requirements for extra time to complete tests, use of rest periods or additional support in catching up with lessons, counselling sessions;
- the level of support needed, (some children will be able to take responsibility for their own health conditions), including in emergencies. If a child is self- managing their medication, this should be clearly stated with appropriate arrangements for monitoring. If a parent is required to attend to their child, for instance in the case of soiling, arrangements for how they will be contacted;
- who will provide this support, their training conditions, expectations of their role and confirmation of proficiency to provide support for the child's medical condition from a healthcare professional; and cover arrangements for when they are unavailable;
- who in the school conditions to be aware of the child'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 pupil 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 child can participate, eg risk assessments;
- where confidentiality issues are raised by the parent/child, the designated individuals to be entrusted with information about the child's condition; and
- 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 individual healthcare plan.

## **Staff training**

All new staff will be inducted on the policy when they join the school through the school's induction programme.

All nominated staff will be provided awareness training on the school's policy for supporting children with medical conditions which will include what their role is in implementing the policy. This training will be carried in line with the timescales identified on the relevant certificates.

The awareness training will be provided to staff through Hampshire County Council.

We will retain evidence that staff have been provided the relevant awareness training on the policy by keeping a register and copy of certificates.

Where required we will work with the relevant healthcare professionals to identify and agree the type and level of training required and identify where the training can be obtained from. This will include ensuring that the training is sufficient to ensure staff are competent and confident in their ability to support children with medical conditions. The training will include preventative and emergency measures so that staff can recognise and act quickly when a problem occurs and therefore allow them to fulfil the requirements set out in the individual healthcare plan.

Any training undertaken will form part of the overall training plan for the school and refresher awareness training will be scheduled at appropriate intervals agreed with the relevant healthcare professional delivering the training.

A 'Staff training record– administration of medicines' form will be completed to document the type of awareness training undertaken, the date of training and the competent professional providing the training.

## **The child's role**

Where possible and in discussion with parents/carers, children that are competent will be encouraged to take responsibility for managing their own medicines and procedures. This will be recorded in their individual healthcare plan. The healthcare plan will reference what will happen should a child who self-administers refuse to take their medication (this will normally be informing the parents/carers at the earliest opportunity).

Where possible we will endeavour to ensure that children can carry their own medicines and relevant devices or have easy access to allow for quick self-medication. We will agree with relevant healthcare professionals/parents/carers the appropriate level of supervision required and document this in their healthcare plan.

## **Managing medicines on school premises**

The administration of medicines is the overall responsibility of the parents/carers. Where clinically possible we will encourage parents/carers to ask for medicines to be prescribed in dose frequencies which enable them to be taken outside of school hours. However, the Headteacher is responsible for ensuring children are supported with their medical conditions whilst on site, therefore this may include managing medicines where it would be detrimental to a child's health or school attendance not to do so.

We will not give prescription or non-prescription medicines to a child under 16 without their parent's/carers written consent (a 'parental agreement for setting to administer medicines' form will be used to record this), except in exceptional circumstances where the medicine has been prescribed to the child without the knowledge of the parents/carers. In such cases, we

will make every effort to encourage the child or young person to involve their parents/carers while respecting their right to confidentiality. The Children's Services Medication Tracking Form will be used to record all medicines received in and out of the premises.

- The name of the child, dose, expiry and shelf life dates will be checked before medicines are administered.
- On occasions where a child refuses to take their medication the parents/carers will be informed at the earliest available opportunity.
- We will only accept prescribed medicines that are in date, labelled, provided in the original container as dispensed by the pharmacist and include instructions for administration, their dosage and storage. Insulin is the exception, which must still be in date but will generally be available to schools inside an insulin pen or a pump, rather than its original container.
- Children who are able to use their own inhalers themselves are encouraged to carry it with them. If the child is too young or immature to take personal responsibility for their inhaler, staff should make sure that it is stored in a safe but readily accessible place, and clearly marked with the child's name.
- Controlled drugs will be securely stored in a non-portable container which only named staff will have access to. We will ensure that the drugs are easily accessible in an emergency situation. A record will be kept of any doses used and the amount of the controlled drug held in school. There may be instances where it is deemed appropriate for a child to administer their own controlled medication. This would normally be at the advice of a medical practitioner. Where an individual child is competent to do so and following a risk assessment, we may allow them to have prescribed controlled drugs available with monitoring arrangements in place.
- We will only administer non-prescribed medicines on request from the parent if they are in clearly identifiable packaging and only on a short term basis (Where concerns further guidance will be sought from the link School Nurse).
- We will never administer aspirin or medicine containing Ibuprofen to any child under 16 years old unless prescribed by a doctor.
- All other pain relief medicine will not be administered without first checking maximum dosages and when previously taken. We will always inform parents/carers.
- Any homeopathic remedies to be administered will require a letter of consent from the child's doctor and will be administered at the discretion of the headteacher.
- Emergency medicines will be stored in a safe location but not locked away to ensure they are easily accessible in the case of an emergency.
- Types of emergency medicines include:
  - Injections of adrenaline for acute allergic reactions
  - Inhalers for asthmatics
  - Injections of glucagon for diabetic hypoglycaemia
  - Other emergency medication ie. rectal diazepam or buccal midazolam for major seizures will be stored in accordance with the normal prescribed medicines procedures (see storage section).

### **Storage**

All medication other than emergency medication will be stored safely in a secure cabinet, where the hinges cannot be easily tampered with and cannot be easily removed from the premise.

Where medicines need to be refrigerated, they will be stored in a staff refrigerator as there is no dedicated refrigerator on site. All medicines will be clearly labelled in the original dispensed packaging.

Medicines such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing meters and adrenaline pens will always be readily available to children and not locked away. We will also ensure that they are readily available when outside of the school premises or on school trips.

Storage of medication whilst off site will be maintained at steady temperature and secure. There will be appropriately trained staff present to administer day to day and emergency medication and copies of individual health care plans will be taken off site to ensure appropriate procedures are followed.

### **Disposal**

It is the responsibility of the parents/carers to dispose of their child's medicines. It is our policy to return any medicines that are no longer required including those where the date has expired to the parents/carers. Parents/carers will be informed of this when the initial agreements are made to administer medicines. Medication returned to parents/carers will be documented on the tracking medication form.

Sharps boxes will be in place for the disposal of needles. Collection and disposal of these will be arranged locally through the relevant contractor will remove them from site when requested.

### **Record Keeping**

**Statutory Requirement: The governing body should ensure that written records are kept of all medicines administered to children.**

A record of what has been administered including how much, when and by whom, will be recorded on a 'medicines administration record sheet'. The form will be kept on file. Any possible side effects of the medication will also be noted and reported to the parents/carers.

### **Emergency Procedures**

Where a child has an individual healthcare plan, this will clearly define what constitutes an emergency and provide a process to follow. All relevant staff will be made aware of the emergency symptoms and procedures. We will ensure other children in the school know what to do in the event of an emergency ie. informing a teacher immediately if they are concerned about the health of another child.

Where a child is required to be taken to hospital, a member of staff will stay with the child until their parents/carers arrives, this includes accompanying them to hospital by ambulance if necessary (taking any relevant medical information, care plans etc that the school holds).

### **Day trips/Off site activities**

**Statutory Requirement: *The Governing body should ensure that their arrangements are clear and unambiguous about the need to support actively pupils with medical conditions to participate in school trips and visits, or in sporting activities, and not prevent them from doing so.***

We will ensure that teachers are aware of how a child's medical condition will impact on their participation in any off site activity or day trip, but we will ensure that there is enough flexibility for all children to participate according to their own abilities within reasonable adjustments.

We will consider what reasonable adjustments we might make to enable children with medical conditions to participate fully and safely on visits. We will carry out a risk assessment so that planning arrangements take account of any steps needed to ensure that pupils with medical conditions are included. We will consult with parents/carers and pupils and advice from the

relevant healthcare professional to ensure that pupils can participate safely. Parents/carers must provide any medication, necessary dietary requirements or other equipment / clothing for their child.

## **Other issues**

### **Unacceptable practice**

Staff are expected to use their discretion and judge each child's individual healthcare plan on its merits, it is not generally acceptable practice to:

- prevent children from easily accessing their inhalers and medication and administering their medication when and where necessary;
- assume that every child with the same condition requires the same treatment;
- ignore the views of the child 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 individual healthcare plans;
- if the child 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, eg. hospital appointments;
- prevent pupils 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 should have to give up working because the school is failing to support their child's medical conditions; or
- prevent children from participating, or create unnecessary barriers to children participating in any aspect of school life, including school trips eg. by requiring parents/carers to accompany the child.

### **Liability and indemnity**

**Statutory Requirement: The governing body will ensure that the appropriate level of insurance is in place and appropriately reflects the level of risk.**

Staff at the school are indemnified under the County Council self-insurance arrangements. The County Council's is self-insured and has extended this self-insurance to indemnify school staff who have agreed to administer medication or undertake a medical procedure to children. To meet the requirements of the indemnification, we will ensure that staff at the school have parents/carers' permission for administering medicines and members of staff will have had training on the administration of the medication or medical procedure.

### **Complaints**

Should parents/carers or children be dissatisfied with the support provided they can discuss their concerns directly with the Headteacher. If for whatever reason this does not resolve the issue, they may make a formal complaint via the school's complaints procedure.

## Appendix 1

